FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MARCH 1984

Omdurman Air Raid

An unidentified Soviet-made bomber dropped five bombs on Omdurman 16 March, hitting an administrative building of the Sudanese radio station, two houses, and two automobiles, SUNA reported. Citizens were slightly injured by the bombs, and units of the Armed Forces were placed on alert. The agency reported that President Ja'far Numayri later inspected the damaged buildings and cited statements by the Khartoum district commissioner's office and the SSU Secretariat in northern Khartoum condemning the "treacherous attack."

Jordan

The U.S. attitude and "double-faced policy everywhere" is "saddening," King Husayn said in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* broadcast by Amman television on 15 March. "I had always thought that we were partners in principles and values of courage," the king said, but principles "mean nothing" to the United States. Temporary issues dominate U.S. policy, especially in election years when candidates "must obtain the support" of Zionists and Israel in their campaigns. The belief that the United States is no longer considered a "trusted mediator" results from a series of events of which Lebanon is the most recent and which caused the United States to "lose its credibility." Israel occupies Arab territories through the aid and support of the United States, which is continually "succumbing to Israel's will." For this reason, "we cannot deal with the United States as an ally of Israel or as a mediator," the king stated.

Lebanon

National Dialogue Conference — The Lausanne conference suspended its meetings until 17 March to mark the anniversary of Kamal Junblatt's death, the Progressive Socialist Party's (PSP's) clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported on 15 March. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil met separately with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in the presence of Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Saudi minister of state, Beirut radio reported. Birri reiterated his demand that the president assume responsibility for what has happened in Lebanon and that political sectarianism be abolished.

Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram said that his forces will "politically and militarily oppose" any decision by the conference which runs counter to the interests of the Christians, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. To Afram, the conference was an "illusion" and nothing more than the implementation of Syrian decisions already made beforehand.

Military Developments — The cease-fire declared by the conference was violated along the contact lines in the commercial markets area on 15 March, Beirut radio announced. Despite attacks on it, the Lebanese Army continued to abide by the cease-fire decision, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The PSP and the Amal instituted "security patrols" in the southern suburb to make sure that the cease-fire was being honored by their members, Voice of the Mountain said.

In a separate development, President al-Jumayyil received a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak expressing Egypt's readiness "to play a part, when the time comes," in security discussions between Lebanon and Israel, Radio Free Lebanon announced.

U.S. Diplomat Kidnapped — Three unidentified gunmen kidnapped a U.S. Embassy official, William Buckley, outside his home on 16 March, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments — Iraqi forces are continuing their siege and bombardment of Majnun Island and "it has become certain" that they gained a "bridgehead" there, according to Radio Monte Carlo on 15 march. A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 15 March claimed Iranian forces were continuing to consolidate their positions on a "considerable scale," especially in the Majnun Island operational sector. In other areas along the front, particularly the sector east of Basra, Iraqi forces confronted attacking Iranian troops and killed over 489 of them, a military communique on Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported.

In another development, an Iraqi plane airlifted Chilean-made "cluster bombs" from Santiago to be used in the war with Iran, JANA announced. Meanwhile, the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals, in a statement to INA, denied "Iranian-Zionist" claims that an industrial fertilizer complex west of Baghdad produces chemical weapons. Such claims are merely part of a propaganda attempt to establish a "coverup" for an Iranian attack against the complex in cooperation with Syria or Israel, the minister added.

Iran on Arab Conference — The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, warned Arab governments that it would not be a "wise policy" to intervene in the war at this point. Such conferences are just a "desperate measure" on the part of those countries that have played a role in "fanning the flames of the imposed war" and now see the Iraqi regime in danger. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in remarks cited by Tehran radio, also warned "reactionary states of the region" against providing financial aid to Iraq as Iran will make a "proper response" to such actions when the time comes.

Iraq

The "Zionist regime of Baghdad" bombed Kurdish villages recently and forced inhabitants in northern Iraq to evacuate their homes, according to "informed sources" in Iraq cited by Tehran radio. This "desperate act" to suppress the Kurdish Muslims resulted from the failure of the agreement between Iraq and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the radio added.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation met with the Romanian president and foreign minister in Bucharest, IRNA reported. Talks centered on bilateral relations and international and regional issues including the Palestinian problem, Lebanon, South Africa, and the Sahara.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 053 *16 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Fatah Military Council Begins Meetings 14 Mar *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
Meetings Resume 15 Mar *[San'a']* ..... A 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Reagan Message on Relations ..... C 1

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES Equates Gulf War to World War II *[14 Mar]* ..... C 1

OMAN

Sultan on Threatened Blockade of Hormuz Strait *[ANSA]* ..... C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting ..... C 2
Crown Prince Returns From 'Abroad' 14 Mar ..... C 2
Defense Minister Departs for Bahrain Visit ..... C 2

UAE

President Receives King Husayn's Message ..... C 2
PLO Official Sharif Arrives for Visit ..... C 2

YAR

Embassy in Beirut Denies Managing Saudi Affairs *[Beirut]* ..... C 2

EGYPT

Greek President Karamanlis Concludes Visit ..... D 1
Ghali Leaves for 1-Day Visit to Paris 15 March ..... D 1
To Meet Cheysson; Views Policy ..... D 1
AL-AHRAM: Britain Offers Arms Purchase Loan *[9 Mar]* ..... D 1
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Doha Arrives for Talks ..... D 1
To Meet Mubarak, Others ..... D 1
Muhyi ad-Din Meets Doha ..... D 1
Ash-Sharif Meets ISBO Secretary General ..... D 1
AL-AHRAM Comments on Libyan Terrorism ..... D 2

IRAQ

Forces Gain Bridgehead on Majnun Island *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... E 1
Minister Denies Complex Produces Chemical Weapons ..... E 1
Armed Forces Communique No 1,405 — 15 March ..... E 1
Ramadan Receives Tunisian Arabic League Delegate ..... E 2

Border Demarcation Agreement Reached With Jordan *[KUNA]* ..... E 2
Trade Minister Meets USSR's Ryabov ..... E 2

JORDAN

King Husayn Interviewed by NEW YORK TIMES ..... F 1
Press Comment on Interview ..... F 2
Results of East Bank Parliament Elections ..... F 3
King Husayn Receives PRC Thank-You Cable ..... F 4

LEBANON

U.S. Embassy Official Kidnapped in Beirut 16 Mar ..... G 1
Political Attache Abducted *[Hong Kong AFP]* ..... G 1
Further on Kidnapping *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 1
PSP, Amal Investigate Kidnapping *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
White Car Sought ..... G 1
Shaykani Urges Investigation ..... G 1
Further Details on 15 March Conference Session ..... G 1
Talks Leading to Walkout Noted ..... G 1
Further on Session, Contacts ..... G 3
Reportage on Government, Opposition Statements ..... G 4
Al-Jumayyil Interviewed; Meets Khaddam ..... G 4
Further on Al-Jumayyil Interview ..... G 5
Birri On Israeli Factor, Dialogue *[London AL-HAWADITH 16 Mar]* ..... G 5
Syrian Objectives, Sham'un's Views *[LE MONDE 15 Mar]* ..... G 6
Various Conference, International Contacts Noted ..... G 7
Al-Jumayyil Meets Junblatt, Birri *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 7
Al-Wazzan Receives Al-Asad Cable ..... G 7
Mubarak Prepared to Intervene *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 8
Continuing Reportage on Cease-Fire Contacts ..... G 8
Committee Discusses Agreement *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 8
Notified of Detainee Release Decision ..... G 8
Meets 16 Mar; IDF Movements ..... G 8
PSP, Amal 'Security Patrols' *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 8
Fadi Afram: Syrian Domination To Be Resisted *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 8
Christian Raps Syrian Stand *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 9
Iddih Welcomes Abrogation, Criticizes U.S. *[Jidda 'UKAZ 8 Mar]* ..... G 9
Shi'ite Leader Comments on Lausanne Conference ..... G 10
Press, Editors' Doyens Call for Abolishing Decrees ..... G 10

SYRIA

Damascus Radio Notes 'Hostile' U.S. Attitude ..... H 1
U.S.-Israeli Military Agreement Reported ..... H 1
Ash-Shar' Receives UN Envoy, Message ..... H 2
Az-Zu'bi Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation ..... H 2

ISRAEL

Shamir Stresses 'Symbolic Importance' of Elat ..... I 1
Shamir on Steps To Decrease Inflation Rate ..... I 1
February Consumer Price Index Up by 12 Percent ..... I 1
Poll Shows Majority Pleased With Shamir Performance *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Mar]* ..... I 1
MA'ARIV's Harif on Talks on IDF Redeployment *[16 Mar]* ..... I 1
Junblatt Interviewed on Lebanese Situation *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Mar]* ..... I 3
Israeli Druze Embrace Demands of Lebanese Druze *[HA'ARETZ 15 Mar]* ..... I 4
Phalangists Urge Druze To Discuss Cantonization ..... I 5
Defection by IDF Druze Soldiers Not Noted *[HA'ARETZ 16 Mar]* ..... I 5
Possible New Deployment Line in Lebanon Reported ..... I 5
Chief of Staff Levi on Effects of Abrogation on IDF *[BAMAHANE 14 Mar]* ..... I 5

Two IDF Soldiers Slightly Wounded Near An-Nabatiyah ..... I 6
Lebanon's Fadi Afram Sharpens Positions on Syria *[MA'ARIV 16 Mar]* ..... I 6
Jordan Opposed To Appointing New Mayors in West Bank *['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Mar]* ..... I 6
Report on West Bankers Meeting With 'Arafat *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Mar]* ..... I 6
HA'ARETZ's Margalit on U.S.- Jordan Arms Deal *[16 Mar]* ..... I 7
Bombing of Car in Gaza Causes No Casualties ..... I 8
Kibbutz Movement Launches Golan Settlement Drive ..... I 8
Science Minister on Settlements, Palestinian State ..... I 8
Poland Interested in Resuming Diplomatic Ties *[HADASHOT 16 Mar]* ..... I 9
Israelis May Visit Hungary for 3 Days Without Visas *[DAVAR 14 Mar]* ..... I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Iranian Minister Velayati's Final Talks Reported *[IRNA]* ..... Q 1
Bulgarian Party Delegation Continues Visit ..... Q 1
Talks With FLN Held *[EL MOUDJAHID 8 Mar]* ..... Q 1
Meeting With Messaadia *[EL MOUDJAHID 9-10 Mar]* ..... Q 1
Agreement Signed *[EL MOUDJAHID 9-10 Mar]* ..... Q 2
Finnish Prime Minister Sorsa Concludes Visit ..... Q 2
Meets With President Bendjedid *[Helsinki]* ..... Q 2
Issues Statement, Departs ..... Q 2
Briefs: APS-DPRK Agency Sign Agreement ..... Q 3

LIBYA

AL-AHALI Interviews Chief of Staff Yunis *[7 Mar]* ..... Q 3

MAURITANIA

Radio Condemns Rumormongers' 'Treachery' ..... Q 4

MOROCCO

Saudi Crown Prince Concludes Visit 14 Mar ..... Q 5

SUDAN

Unidentified Bomber Raids Omdurman 16 Mar ..... Q 5
SUNA Reports Bombing ..... Q 5
Numayri Inspects Bombing Site ..... Q 5
Government Statements Condemn Raid ..... Q 5
Youth Union Denounces 'Aggression' ..... Q 5
At-Tayyib Returns From Saudi Arabia Visit ..... Q 6

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Opposition Leaders Interviewed by Syria's AL-BA'TH *[9 Mar]* ..... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

GABON

Bongo Appeals to OAU Members To Resolve Differences ..... S 1

CHAD

OLTIF Claims Responsibility for Two Attacks ..... S 1

CONGO

Portugal's Eanes Greeted by Sassou-Nguesso ..... S 1
Further Details *[Lisbon]* ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

PNDC Secretarial Changes Announced 15 March ..... T 1

GUINEA

Soldiers Reportedly Kill Two Sierra Leone Fishermen *[AFP]* ..... T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Saude Maria Takes Refuge in Portuguese Embassy ..... T 1
Requests Asylum From Portugal ..... T 1
Portuguese Confirm Refuge Granted ..... T 1

IVORY COAST

Four Aid Agreements Signed With France ..... T 2

NIGERIA

Buhari Receives Former Military Head of State *[AFP]* ..... T 2
Borno Administrator Warns on Religious Strife ..... T 2
Maiduguri Market Destroyed by Fire 15 March *[AFP]* ..... T 2

SENEGAL

Diouf Departs For Working Visit to Cape Verde ..... T 2

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Receives Message From Kampuchean Leader ..... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mozambique, South Africa Sign Accord of Nkomati ..... U 1
'Full Text' of Accord *[SAPA]* ..... U 1
Machel Address at Ceremony *[SAPA]* ..... U 3
Botha Address at Ceremony *[SAPA]* ..... U 5
Details of Signing Ceremony *[SAPA]* ..... U 6
Frontline Leaders Support Mozambique *[Maputo]* ..... U 7
ANC Statement Condemns Accord *[Umtata Capital Radio]* ..... U 7
Tripartite Cahora Bassa Talks To Continue in Maputo *[Maputo]* ..... U 8

ANGOLA

Embassy Denies Carreira Arrest, Planned Coup *[Lisbon]* ..... U 8

BOTSWANA

Parliamentarians Criticize RSA Nonaggression Pacts ..... U 8

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Urges RSA To Abolish Apartheid ..... U 8

MADAGASCAR

APN Organizes Debate on Indian Ocean as Zone of Peace ..... U 9

MOZAMBIQUE

Portugal's De Almeida Arrives for Accord Signing ..... U 9
Workers in Maputo Let Off for RSA Pact Rally ..... U 9
RSA To Increase Use of Maputo Harbor After Talks ..... U 9
'No Announcement' on End of MNR Broadcast Suspension *[PANA]* ..... U 10

NAMIBIA

'Heavy Fighting' Seen Between SWAPO, Angolan Troops *[SAPA]* ..... U 10
Territory Forces Report 3 SWAPO Terrorists Killed *[Johannesburg]* ..... U 10

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Lauds Nkomati Accord, Kaunda Summit Offer ..... U 10

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe: One-Party State Needed To Prevent Subversion ..... U 11
ZANU-PF Women's Tasks Set ..... U 11

Fatah Military Council Begins Meetings 14 Mar

JN151736 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Fatah Military Council began meetings in San'a' last night. Our correspondent has learned that the situation of the Palestinian forces in the Arab states and other issues related to the Palestinian situation will be focused on during the Council's two days of meetings.

The Iraq-Iran war and the means to end this war will be one of the important issues that the Military Council will discuss during its meetings.

It is worth noting that Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in San'a' yesterday from Saudi Arabia where he held talks with King Fahd and senior Saudi officials on the recent developments of the Palestinian question in particular, and the general Arab situation.

Meetings Resume 15 Mar

GF151834 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Palestinian Supreme Military Council resumed its meetings in San'a' this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

During this meeting the Council discussed the most important issues in with the situation of the Palestinian forces distributed among the Arab states, particularly since the departure from Tripoli, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and means to ensure escalation of military operations.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat briefed the Council on the recent situation on the Palestinian and Arab arenas, especially current events in Lebanon, and their impact on the Palestinian issue.

The Council also discussed the results of the talks which were held during Brother Abu 'Ammar's tour of Arab and African countries.

The Council will resume its meetings later today.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Reagan Message on Relations

GF160810 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 16 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, has received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on bilateral relations and current international developments. The message was conveyed to his highness the amir by Donald Leidel, the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, during his meeting with him in Manama today.

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES Equates Gulf War to World War II

GF151054 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Mar 84 p 6

["Opinion" column by Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] Now that it has become certain that Iranian aggression is not limited to Iraq alone, the Arab world will experience what Western Europe did during World War II when Hitler decided to overrun neighboring countries. The situation is the same, even if the names and tactics differ. The aims are also the same: expansion and disruption of world peace by a leadership with unacceptable ambitions and which does not know how to observe international laws. Though Iranian aggression has not achieved its goal, it is nevertheless an aggression that will harm not only Gulf and Arabian Peninsula interests, but also international ones. These international interests may not realize the consequences until the catastrophe hits them. Such a catastrophe will affect the world.

The United States joined the Soviet Union against Hitler to protect its interests in Western Europe, and the situation is the same now. Just as the U.S. did not move till its interests were affected during World War II, similarly the world will not take action until it feels the effects of the Iraqi-Iran war on its interests. The whole region is convinced now that this mad war will not stop until another mad war ends it. We hope the Baghdad conference will put an end to this ever-growing madness which will harm the interests of the whole world.

OMAN

Sultan on Threatened Blockade of Hormuz Strait

AU151547 Rome ANSA in English 1535 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] (ANSA) Salalah, Oman; March 15 — The United States cannot expect an automatic hand from Oman in an intervention to stop Iran from blocking off the Hormuz Strait, Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id told ANSA today. The sultan was referring to the military treaty Oman signed with the United States in 1980 for the defense of Oman's territorial waters, through which tankers carrying crude from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other Gulf countries — Iran included — have to pass. Despite its military alliance with the United States, Oman appears now determined to stay out of any conflict that may result from a move on the part of Iran to stop shipping through the strait.

Qabus made it clear to ANSA's correspondent today that his government will not support any American operation in the region unless it has the backing of all other Arab nations in the Gulf area. The sultan was interviewed at his summer residence in Salalah, in the Dhofar region. The questions, and the answers he provided, are given below:

ANSA: How will you react if Iran goes through with its threat to block the Strait of Hormuz?

Qabus: The Iranians will not close the strait light-heartedly, since they need it for the shipment of their own oil. They would close the strait only if they could not export their oil any more, and had nothing to lose. In that case, we would consult with the other five nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain — and decide together.

ANSA: Do you think an American intervention in the Gulf is necessary to defend the strait?

Qabus: Sixty percent of the non-communist world's oil passes through the Hormuz Strait, and we can understand the interest of our American friends. We would rather, however, see the problem solved through peaceful means. Oman will take a stand only after it has consulted with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

ANSA: If the United States asked to use military bases in Oman, on the basis of the 1980 treaty, for an intervention, what would your answer be?

Qabus: I would like to remind you that our agreement with the United States authorizes that country to use bases in Oman only if we ask for U.S. aid. We do not intend to make a decision about it alone. When the moment comes, we will discuss it with our Arab allies. But I do not see any reason why the United States should ask for the use of bases. The issue will be to keep Strait of Hormuz open, not to declare war on Iran. We would not want that to happen.

ANSA: Do you believe it will be possible to maintain the Gulf's neutrality and prevent interference from the two superpowers?

Qabus: Oman has traditionally friendly ties with the United States, just as it has with other Western countries. This does not mean that we are "aligned." The fact that we have friends does not limit our independence. When we think our friends are making a mistake, we say so.

ANSA: Would Oman be willing to establish diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union?

Qabus: We have no hostility towards anyone. Any country which wants our friendship on the basis of equality will find us ready to make an unbiased decision. But first we want to make

absolutely sure that there will not be any interference in our internal affairs.

ANSA: If there were a crisis because of a blockade of the Hormuz Strait, would Oman be willing to step up crude production to help meet the needs of the West? Qabus: We are a small producer nation, and we do not intend to change our plans.

ANSA: What would the repercussions of a closedown of the Hormuz Strait be on Oman?

Qabus: All of our ports are on the open sea and our economy is not in danger. The Hormuz Strait is located in Oman's territorial waters, but it is used by other countries.

ANSA: Will Oman's economic development lead to political reform, like the drafting of a constitution and a parliament?

Qabus: All necessary changes in Oman will come naturally and without any brusque innovations, in keeping with our national and religious traditions.

ANSA: Do you believe that Europe, and Italy in particular, could play a bigger role in the Gulf?

Qabus: We have good relations, but there is still room to improve them. Our country needs technology and I believe Italy could cooperation with us, especially in the development of agriculture. I would like to go into the problem in more detail with Italian authorities. I'm sure a more intensive cooperation is possible.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting

LD151333 Riyadh SPA in English 1201 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Riyadh, March 15, SPA — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned home last night from Baghdad after attending the one-day emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers there.

Crown Prince Returns From 'Abroad' 14 Mar

LD151332 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Riyadh, March 15, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn Abd al-'Aziz, the first deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, returned home last night from a trip abroad. On his arrival, the crown prince was greeted by Interior Minister Prince Nayif, Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh, princes, ministers and senior officials of the armed forces and the national guard, as well as other citizens.

Defense Minister Departs for Bahrain Visit

LD161002 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Dhahran, 16 May (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, left Dhahran at 1150 this morning for Bahrain on a private visit.

UAE

President Receives King Husayn's Message

GF151100 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] His highness the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received a written message from His Majesty King Husayn of fraternal Jordan, dealing with the latest Arab and Islamic developments and relations between the two countries and the means of developing them. The message was conveyed by Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister, during his meeting with his highness the president at Al-Marfa' resthouse this morning. The Jordanian deputy prime minister was accompanied by Hanna 'Awdah, the Jordanian finance minister.

The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, and the Jordanian ambassador to the UAE.

PLO Official Sharif Arrives for Visit

GF160624 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0533 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (WAKH) — Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO leader and member of the PLO Central Council, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening to visit the UAE for a few days. On arrival, Abu Sharif made a statement saying: Despite the hard times the Palestinian revolution is passing through at this decisive stage in the history of Palestinian struggle, our struggle will continue on two main fronts. The first front is escalation of the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy occupying our homeland and southern Lebanon. The second is the political front, where we will counter all designs to eliminate our cause. Despite hardships, we are confident that our people will achieve final victory as a result of our determination and strong will, and the support of the Arab masses.

The UAE has a clear stand on the Palestinian question and its people's struggle, which we and our people appreciate very much. We also hope we will continue to receive support, Abu Sharif said.

YAR

Embassy in Beirut Denies Managing Saudi Affairs

NC152057 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The YAR Embassy in Beirut today denied that the Saudi Embassy has authorized it to manage its affairs in Lebanon, because such a situation takes place only when diplomatic relations are severed.

Greek President Karamanlis Concludes Visit

NC160952 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis left Cairo this morning following a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit President Karamanlis held talks with President Husni Mubarak on international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and the Lebanese and Palestinian issues.

Ghali Leaves for 1-Day Visit to Paris 15 March

NC151315 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo at noon today for Paris on a 1-day visit. Before leaving Cairo, he said he will hold talks with the French Minister of External Relations on developments in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon in light of the National Reconciliation Conference currently being held in Lausanne. He said he will discuss coordinating the stands of the two countries to solve the Middle East problem.

To Meet Cheysson; Views Policy

NC151833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, 15 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said upon arrival here today that he will meet tomorrow with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. They will discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the situation in Lebanon, especially following the recent UN Security Council meeting that debated the French plan. It should be recalled, Dr Ghali added, that Egypt supported the plan, that the Soviet Union vetoed. Dr Ghali said his talks with Cheysson will also touch on bilateral relations and on continuing bilateral consultations. Regarding his African tour, Dr Ghali said he is carrying messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of states of Upper Volta, Nigeria, and Ghana. He added his talks with the foreign ministers of the aforementioned states will deal with situations in and problems confronting Africa. Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt is closely following the work of the Dialogue Conference in Lausanne. We, Dr Ghali added, have instructed our ambassador in Geneva to attend the conference. He said: We wholeheartedly wish the conference success so that Lebanon will be able to remove all foreign troops from its land, particularly the Israeli forces, and will establish its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. He emphasized that Egypt opposes the partitioning of Lebanon.

AL-AHRAM: Britain Offers Arms Purchase Loan

PM151455 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Mar 84 p 1

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im report: "300 Million Pound Loan for Purchase of Military Equipment"]

[Excerpts] London — Britain has offered Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, currently in Britain on an official visit, a loan of 300 million pounds sterling for the purchase of British arms and military equipment for the various Egyptian Armed Forces' sectors.

AL-AHRAM's military editor has learned that Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah will report to President Husni Mubarak on the details and terms of the loan offer which, among other things, allows a 3-year grace period and will be at an 8-percent interest rate payable over 8 years beginning 1988.

AL-AHRAM's editor has also learned that the British offer is now under consideration at the highest levels in Egypt, and that Egypt's decision will be conveyed to the British Government within days.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Doha Arrives for Talks

To Meet Mubarak, Others

NC151524 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Bangladesh minister of foreign affairs, A.R. Shamsud Doha, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit. During his visit, he will be received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din. He will also hold talks tomorrow with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Muhyi ad-Din Meets Doha

NC152002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this evening received in his office Bangladesh Minister of Foreign Affairs A.R. Shamsud Doha, who is currently visiting Cairo. Following the meeting, Doha said he and Muhyi ad-Din discussed the means of strengthening bilateral relations in various fields; developments in the Middle East; the Palestinian issue; the situation in Lebanon; and the need to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said the discussions also dealt with the two countries' roles within the Nonaligned Movement and Islamic Conference in serving the issues that concern the developing countries.

Ash-Sharif Meets ISBO Secretary General

NC151333 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Safwat ash-Sharif, Minister of State for Information, today received Ahmad Farraq, secretary general of the Islamic States Broadcasting Services Organization [ISBO.] Farraq congratulated Ash-Sharif on the invitation to Egypt to resume its activity in ISBO following the resolution adopted at the ICC summit. He also expressed his organization's welcome to the Information Ministry as the representative of the Egyptian Government.

Ash-Sharif said Egypt, which has always made great contributions to Islam and its mission, will actively participate in bolstering the efforts of ISBO which has made accomplishments in the propagation of Islam.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Libyan Terrorism

NC160834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-AHRAM* expresses the belief that the Libyan regime is in trouble and in a state of self-defense, prompting it to pursue a "handful" of its opponents in the most remote corners of the world in order to liquidate them.

In its weekly comment on Arab events in today's issue, the newspaper says Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's return to his preferred game namely, of exporting terrorism in either the form of an alliance with foreign terrorist organizations, or through his efforts to liquidate his opponents abroad only serves to confirm that his domestic situation has begun to shake to such an extent that he is now afraid of any Libyan opposition bloc, even those existing in the most remote corners of the world.

AL-AHRAM says the Libyan regime, which has always boasted of its stability to the extent of supporting any dissident movement in the world, now appears small, weak, and in a state of self-defense against its citizens abroad as well as its opponents at home.

Concluding, *AL-AHRAM* says the lasting lesson of history is that democratic rule alone is the legal outlet for the opinions of people, even if they are enemies, without requiring the shedding of a single drop of blood.

Forces Gain Bridgehead on Majnun Island

JN152030 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] A feeling of satisfaction is overwhelming the Iraqi military and political circles. The latest reports received from the battlefronts indicate the continuation of the Iraqi forces' siege and bombardment of Majnun Island. It has become certain that the Iraqis have managed to gain a bridgehead on that island.

On the political level, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz expressed his satisfaction with the results of the Arab foreign ministers conference, which concluded its meetings yesterday evening. 'Aziz described the resolutions as an expression of Arab solidarity with Iraq in its battle against the Iranian aggression.

However, this satisfaction is only the beginning of a military action toward the restoration of Majnun and the beginning of an expected political action aimed at achieving three tasks: First, following up the implementation of the Arab foreign ministers' resolutions with the aim of ending the war or severing Arab relations with Iran; second, a political movement in Islamic circle so that resolutions putting pressure on Iran or isolating it can be adopted; third, a similar movement by the Nonaligned Movement.

Thus, the Arab approval of the resolutions announced in Baghdad yesterday constitutes an encouraging guarantee for success as well as a political contribution to the confrontation with Iran.

Minister Denies Complex Produces Chemical Weapons

JN152036 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad March 15, INA — Iraq denied today that its Akashat industrial complex for fertilizers (west of Baghdad) produces chemical weapons.

Iraqi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Subhi Yasin told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that these claims were "joint Iranian and Zionist propaganda to prepare a cover for attacking the complex."

The minister said the complex produces phosphate for the production of chemical fertilizers.

He said workers from some 40 nationalities had worked in the complex and at present the complex has workers and engineers from Belgium, England, Germany, Poland, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and some Arabs.

"The combined Iranian-Zionist propaganda co-ordination in collaboration with the Syrian regime is a coverup for attacking the complex by the Iranians or the the Zionist entity (Israel) similar to the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes in June 1981," the minister said.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,405 — 15 March

JN151731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,405 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 15 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, which inflicted on the invading aggressors huge losses in men and equipment during the past battles, will continue to deal strong and crushing blows to the enemy and will inflict on the criminal enemy further defeats. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force from our brave forward units launched a strong attack on an enemy force opposite our positions east of Basra this morning. It clashed with the enemy, using all types of weapons. A successful battle raged, during which the enemy sustained large losses.

The known enemy losses amounted to 321 killed, many others wounded, a number captured; and 9 vehicles, 1 excavator, and a number of medium and light weapons and various equipment destroyed.

Elsewhere in the same area, enemy groups tried to attack one of our valiant forward units. Our forces confronted them with unique valor and managed to destroy them, killing over 100, wounding others, and capturing a number of troops. The rest took to their heels, leaving their dead on the battlefield.

The enemy also sustained other losses opposite the positions of our other units in the same sector; these amounted to 68 killed; and 6 vehicles — 1 loaded with hardware — 4 excavators, 1 vehicle-mounted gun, 1 bulldozer, 1 hardware stockpile, and 1 medium machine gun destroyed.

2. Our brave forward units carried out an operation against the enemy positions opposite our positions in the east Tigris operational sector, dealing them effective blows and destroying two infantry positions, two weapon emplacements, one hardware stockpile, and one oil storage tank. Explosions were heard and fires were seen in the enemy's positions and equipment which were attacked.

3. Three were killed, several others were wounded, and one gun was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. Yesterday evening and today, the spiteful Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and their environs with heavy artillery. The enemy shelling led to the wounding of one civilian and the destruction of two houses in Basra; damage to two houses in Zurbatiyah; and damage to various civilian properties in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 March 1984

Ramadan Receives Tunisian Arab League Delegate
JN151441 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today At-Tayyib as-Sahbani, Tunisian permanent delegate to the Arab League.

During the meeting, As-Sahbani conveyed a verbal message from Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali for Ramadan on the relations between the two brotherly countries, and on Tunis's desire for deepening and expanding the fields of cooperation with Iraq in order to serve the two peoples' interests.

Ramadan expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Tunisia in all fields for the benefit of the entire Arab nation. They also discussed the current situation in the Arab arena.

Border Demarcation Agreement Reached With Jordan
LD151128 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 15 Mar 84

[By Mohammed el Musa]

[Text] Amman, March 15 (KUNA) — Jordan and Iraq will sign next week a final agreement on demarcation of their joint borders, reliable sources told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY (KUNA) Thursday.

The sources said an official Jordanian delegation headed by Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar will leave for Baghdad next Saturday to sign a final agreement with Iraq.

The delegation groups the director general of Lands and Survey Department Badri al-Malki, the commander of the Beduin area Col. Fawaz Sharaf and ranking officials of the Interior Ministry and the Jordanian Geographical Center.

The borders issue has been frozen between the two countries since 1958, but late in 1980 Iraq said it was ready for a final demarcation of borders with Jordan.

Later on joint sub-committees were formed to carry out studies relating to that issue and to prepare for the demarcation. [sentence as received] The committees concluded their studies and meetings early last year and presented their recommendations to the Iraqi and Jordanian Governments in a prelude to signing the protocol agreement. Iraq has also signed a similar agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Trade Minister Meets USSR's Ryabov
JN151225 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met this morning with Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, Hasan 'Ali and Yakov Ryabov discussed ways of expanding the current trade exchange between the two countries in the future. Yakov Ryabov renewed his country's desire to increase its participation in the implementation of development projects in Iraq and to bolster comprehensive cooperation with Iraq.

King Husayn Interviewed by NEW YORK TIMES

JN151925 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

["Text" of King Husayn's interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, published on 15 March 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Was the United States' withdrawal from Lebanon the reason which made Your Majesty believe that the United States is no longer dependable as a trusted mediator?

Answer: This is due to a series of events, and Lebanon is one of them — a matter which made the United States lose its credibility. There has been a series of factors since 1956. However, let us look at the near past, beginning with President Reagan's initiative on 1 September 1982. The initiative, along with U.S. credibility, was finished off as a result of Israel's rejection of that initiative. This was followed by an active Israeli settlement policy which was aggravated and which was a direct reply to President Reagan's initiative. The crisis in Lebanon followed and the Israelis continued their policies as they are now continuing their occupation of the Lebanese territories. We have recently seen Israel trying to carry out a plan aimed at resettling the West Bank population in the Jordan valley as a final step toward pushing them across the Jordan River to the East Bank. This conforms with Israel's claim that the Palestine question is a question of people, and not of land. Moreover, there is a plan to implement the Israeli real estate law in the rest of the occupied Arab territories. During this period, and for 17 years, Israel has been denying the right of the Palestinian people, under the Israeli occupation, to enjoy human rights and to freely express their issues.

The United States is looking at us and is talking about direct negotiations, considering this the only way to get out of the crisis. However, we do not know the true U.S. stand. We view matters as follows: Israel is occupying our territories and it is present there due to the U.S. economic and military aid — aid which is turned into aid for the Israeli settlements. Israel is occupying the Arab territories through the support of the United States, which is succumbing to Israel's will. This being the case, there is no way by which anyone could imagine that the Arabs can sit and negotiate with Israel so long as matters remain as they are now.

Regarding the United States, the question is: Is the United States capable of rising to the level of a superpower and fulfilling its commitments and repeated assertions that it is neutral? We do not see such a thing. It is obvious that we cannot deal with the United States as an ally of Israel or as a mediator. The United States emphasizes that its current plan still exists. Does it really exist? Israel has rejected this plan and introduced changes into the occupied territory to such an extent that this plan was rendered useless.

Another U.S. election year is now ahead of us. We see that the candidates must obtain the support of the Aipac, Zionism, and Israel in their electoral campaign. This year, there has been a radical change inside the occupied Arab territories. A year from now any hopes left for the attainment of any peaceful solution will be destroyed. This is the situation now. Therefore, I say the situation is desperate.

Question: What do you mean by that?

Answer: I mean the stands which we adopted all these years in our attempts to establish a dialogue with Washington, in an effort to contribute toward reaching a more balanced formula for solving the dispute in the interest of all the parties concerned. But all these attempts failed. It is obvious that the United States has already defined its option. And that option was Israel and backing Israel. Since this is the case, then there is no hope of achieving anything. To be honest, we offered more than we got. We sought to establish peace in the region and showed a readiness to act on the basis of the Reagan plan. Israel was the side that rejected this plan, because it did not want to achieve peace. Despite that, we are being portrayed to the world as the side that opposes peace. This is not only unfair, but also far from true.

Question: Does this mean that you will not participate in any negotiations with Israel through U.S. mediation or supervision?

Answer: Matters are not as they seem. We have to be realistic. This has cost us a great deal. U.S. credibility was shaken. Harm was done to those who trusted the United States. Harm was also done to the possibility of a constructive U.S. policy. We were sincere and loyal. We tried our level best. However, I do not see anything happening other than more deterioration in the situation. We worked for the progress of this region. This is all I can say.

Question: What are the options available to you and where is Jordan heading now?

Answer: Jordan was always acting alone. There is no strategic alliance between Jordan and the United States, and we are not linked to the USSR by any treaty. Jordan has a just cause which it has defended and will continue to defend. Our objective is to defend the Arab identity and the Arab cause. But we are facing grave dangers which do not only threaten the oil fields in our region, but also the security of the whole world. We resisted all attempts at polarization in this region and will continue to do so. But it seems that two sides are working for this polarization: Israel on one side, and some Arabs on the other side. The way I see it, there is nothing common between them.

Question: Do you mean Syria?
Answer: I mean those who are working for polarization, including the United States.

Question: What has become of the efforts to form the so-called alliance of moderate Arab states?

Answer: Jordan and the Palestinian people will continue to work together to ensure that our relations are based on mutual confidence and clarity of vision. As I said several times before, it is ridiculous for Israel to assume the right to prevent the Arabs in the occupied territory from coming to Amman to meet with us or even with the PLO. When the PNC meets, which may be very soon, it will be ridiculous to see two sides preventing the silent majority, which will not be silent anymore, from expressing themselves. Israel on the one hand, and Syria on the other, who will not take part in the talks, are obstructing citizens who are truly concerned about expressing themselves.

Let us consider the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The whole world now is creating a big uproar and calling on the USSR to give Jews the right to emigrate to Israel. They are Soviet citizens and belong to the USSR. Yet we find that the United States is strongly protesting. What about these people who are not Israelis but Arab citizens who are under occupation and hold Jordanian citizenship? Should they not enjoy the right to express their opinion on any problem or on their future?

Question: What must be done to renew the possibility of Jordanian and Palestinian participation in direct talks with Israel?

Answer: Jordan and the Palestinians are one team. We will work together on all fronts. But regarding any negotiations, and since the United States is continuing with its current policy, it has no right to deprive others of the right to attend any new negotiations. Therefore, I believe in the necessity of Soviet participation in these negotiations. But if the two superpowers stood as allies of the two rivals, Israel and Syria, then it is obvious that these two powers would not be able to contribute to a solution alone, especially since their relations are not harmonious at present. If this is the case, then the picture must be more comprehensive. It may be necessary to include the five permanent member-states of the UN Security Council in addition to all the parties in the dispute.

Question: Including the PLO?
Answer: Yes.
Question: Is there not anyone other than the United States or the USSR who is in a position to play the role of the reliable mediator?

Answer: No, especially the United States.
Question: What is the impact of the U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon on your thinking, especially since you said in my earlier interview with you that the Americans should not withdraw if there had been no change in the situation?

Answer: I prefer not to comment on this. I have a final opinion. I am concerned about the United States' attitude and two-faced policy everywhere. It is saddening, for I had always thought that we were partners in the principles and values of courage. But I now realize that principles mean nothing to the United States. Temporary issues, especially in election years, are the ones that dominate U.S. policy. This is most saddening. But I still believe that what counts is principles. If this is not so, then this is a serious matter for all of us.

Press Comment on Interview

JN161040 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "The United States Lost Credibility," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: In the important political statement to a U.S. paper, which was carried by international media over the past 2 days, His Majesty King Husayn noted the outcome of Arab experience with U.S. policy in this region.

The status quo of the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories includes many condemnations of the United States and its policy which has not been serious, and which has been completely biased toward Israel. The possible developments in the region as a result of the dangers of this status quo and U.S. political mistakes, will make the United States responsible not only before the Arabs, the owners of the aggrieved rights, but also before the world, which the United States deprived of its role, and prevented from assuing its responsibilities in order to stop the Israeli aggression and the deteriorating situation, and to protect peace in the region and the world.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: Under the guise of peace and truth, the United States seized the role of the United Nations, and made its policies in this region an alternative to the UN Charter. It also seized the role of the USSR and Europe. Thus, the peace expected by the world from the efforts of a superpower who is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, resulted in the Camp David accords, which the Arabs rejected and on which the United States insisted in order to serve Israel's interests, and in the Israeli-U.S.-Lebanese agreement which the Lebanese people toppled after paying heavily.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: Under the guise of peace, the United States supported the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories and blessed all the Israeli settlement processes. The United States even began to present legislation that would make settlements accepted by U.S. public opinion which was fed up with the racial settlement practices. The U.S. President came up with his strange theory in which he said that he cannot exclude the Jews and prevent them from settling in the occupied West Bank.

Under the guise of peace, and peace-making, the United States provided protection for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and tried to support this invasion once by the agreement, and other times by carrying out Israel's role through the guns of the Marines, and the firing from the *New Jersey*.

The double-meaning language, the double standard, the complete U.S. bias toward Israel, the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, supporting Israeli terrorism by deeds while pretending to oppose it by words, standing against the Arab Palestinian people and all the Arabs, refusing to recognize the PLO, and the U.S. failure to show a minimum amount of justice and objectivity in the region have had very important repercussions on the U.S. reputation and on cooperation with it in the Arab region. This situation made the Arabs knock on other doors to search for means more serious and logical than this tampering, which only led to the exacerbation of the occupation, and to standing at the edge of dangerous conflagration in the region and the world.

Under the headline "The United States and the Lost Credibility," *AD-DUSTUR* says: His Majesty King Husayn's statement to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* has exposed the U.S. stand on the Palestine cause and the Arab issues — the stand which has always backed Israel's strong stands, and has opposed truth, justice, Arab Palestinian people's aspirations, and just peace in this part of the world.

The U.S. loss of credibility as a mediator in the Middle East is not the result of its support for Zionism, or of the fact that the United States has lost its freedom of movement outside the limits laid down by Zionism, but because the United States has become incapable of proving the credibility of its promises and resolutions before the world, and because it has chosen to abandon its role as a superpower, and a decisionmaker.

AD-DUSTUR continues: We do not need to recall many U.S. stands which, as King Husyan said, assert that principles no longer mean anything to the United States. The reversed U.S. stand toward the policy of imposing the fait accompli policy in the occupied territories; the settlements which the United States no longer believes are contrary to international law; the U.S. initiatives which have been killed by the Israeli rejection; the measures aimed at applying Israeli laws on the West Bank; the plan aimed at resettling refugees and deporting them outside the occupied territories; and the U.S. veto which has always prevented adoption of international resolutions to condemn these Israeli measures assert that U.S. decisionmaking has always succumbed to the Israeli will. This also affirms the emptiness and falseness of the U.S. call on the Arabs to continue efforts toward peace talks.

AD-DUSTUR continues: King Husayn asserted that Jordan has not spared any efforts to achieve peace in the region, and to convince Washington to adopt a more balanced stand toward the Arab cause. However, these efforts were in vain due to the U.S. stand which is biased toward Israel and Zionism. Despite the desperate situation in the region, Jordan is confident that it is defending a just cause, proceeding from a firm stand aimed at saving the land and the kinfolk.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Hence, in light of the threats and defiance, we pin hopes on the Jordanian-Palestinian march, and its continuation on the basis of confidence and clarity. We are confident that through determination, insistence, and will, we will achieve our objectives because we are seekers of just rights. Rights will not be lost as long as there are seekers of these rights.

Under the headline "The United States Is the Arabs' Enemy," *AR-RA'Y* says: With sincerity, frankness, and courage, His Majesty King Husayn expressed a real assessment of the U.S. role in the reigon when he said that the United States has lost its credibility as a mediator in the Middle East, and that principles and values mean nothing to it in its preparation for the presidential elections.

Jordan and the Arab masses believe in this assessment. It is time the U.S. Administration knew that the verbal pacifiers it has presented to the Arabs have not succeeded in hiding its aggressive practices. These practices are represented by supporting the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and offering the military, economic, and political aid which encourage the Israeli aggressors to remain intransigent and to continue building settlements in the occupied areas. This is in addition to the legislative suggestions which call for moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and for imposing restrictions on providing Jordan with the arms it needs.

AR-RA'Y continues: The strange thing is that the U.S. Administration, which preferred to relinquish credibility, values, and principles, and support the Israel aggression, still believes that it can drag Arab parties to negotiations with Israel, or rather to capitulation to Israel. This naive belief expresses the U.S. conceit which the Arab policy and masses reject. This U.S. conceit is also expressed through U.S. hints that new efforts will not be exerted in this region for a period of time after explaining the Arab assessment of the U.S. practices to the U.S. Administraiton.

The U.S. Administration must understand that the efforts it has exerted in the region were never positive. These efforts were accompanied by destruction and failure in Lebanon, and by encouraging the aggressor in his aggression in the occupied territories to the west of the River [Jordan].

What are the efforts which the United States is threatening to stop exerting? Are they the chewed up words used in connection with the Reagan plan which was presented to cause a rift in the Arab ranks, and to drag the Arabs to differences over nothing? Are they the despicable provocations with which Reagan and his rivals are dealing with the Arab cause,which they have presented as if it were a commodity to sell to the Jewish voters in the U.S. election market?

AR-RA'Y continues: U.S. hostility toward the Arabs is now too clear to be hidden by the verbal pacifiers the U.S. Administration presents every now and then. This hostility may make the presidential rivals gain the Jewish votes, but under all circumstances it will remain a practice that will harm the American people, U.S. interests in the region, and the U.S. reputation throughout the world. It is time the U.S. Administration realized that it is not in charge of Arab affairs, and that the Arabs are capable of facing its might with all potentials available. U.S. haughtiness seems to be the factor that will hasten the closing of Arab ranks, and organizing of Arab struggle in order to preserve the Arab identity from hegemony and control.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The U.S. Administration has chosen the position of hostility toward the Arabs. The Arabs will place the U.S. Administration in the position it has chosen. This is the fact that must be declared and faced in broad daylight.

Results of East Bank Parliament Elections

JN151607 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — The final results of East Bank parliamentary byelections held yesterday in the Amman area, the Irbid, Al-Balqa', and Al-Karak Governorates, and the At-Tafilah District to fill the vacant seats in the House of Representatives were announced today.

Al-Balqa' Governor Muhammad al-Khatib today announced that Marwan 'Abd al-Halim an-Nimr al-Humud and Zuhayr Dhuqan al-Husayn won the two Muslim seats, and Dr Fawzi Shakir Tu'aymah won the Christian seat for the Al-Balqa' Governorate.

The results of the by-elections in Amman, Irbid, Al-Karak, and At-Tafilah were announced earlier today. Engineer Layth Shubaylat won the Amman seat, Dr Ahmad al-Kufahi the Irbid seat, Dr 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah the At-Tafilah seat, Dr Riyad an-Nawayisah the Al-Karak Muslim seat, and Dr Nazih al-'Ammarin the Al-Karak Christian seat.

King Husayn Receives PRC Thank-You Cable

JN151703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn has received the following cable of thanks from PRC President Li Xiannian on the occasion of the end of his visit to Jordan:

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman. Your Majesty: As I leave your beautiful country at the end of my successful visit, I have the honor of expressing, on my behalf and on behalf of my wife and colleagues, our deep gratitude for Your Majesty and Her Majesty Queen Nur, the Jordanian Government, and people for the warm reception which you accorded us. During this visit, we felt the deep friendship between the Jordanian and Chinese peoples. I and my wife were greatly impressed by Your Majesty's efforts in making suitable arrangements for our visit, although you were busy with state affairs. You personally accompanied me throughout my visit, and we held cordial talks on various occasions.

I am convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the PRC and Jordan will develop and strengthen due to Your Majesty's personal care. I look forward to continuing the development of friendship between the Chinese and Jordanian peoples. I also wish prosperity for your Kingdom, happiness for your people, and good health for Your Majesty.

U.S. Embassy Official Kidnapped in Beirut 16 Mar

Political Attache Abducted

OW161019 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 16 (AFP) — The political attache at the U.S. Embassy here, William Buckley, was kidnapped this morning as he left his house at 0730 (0530 GMT), an embassy spokesman said. The spokesman would not give further details, but well-informed sources said Mr Buckley had been seized by three armed men.

The U.S. Embassy later contacted both the Shi'ite Amal militia and Druze Progressive Socialist Party to seek help in locating Mr Buckley. It was not immediately known if those two groups, which control West Beirut, had agreed to the request.

The Army and National Police Force have already launched a search.

Further on Kidnapping

NC161104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] At 0740 today, gunmen kidnapped William Buckley, political adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, in 'Ayn al-Muraysah. Available information says the kidnappers were three gunmen dressed in civilian clothes and riding in a Renault-12 automobile. One of them got out of the automobile and pointed his gun at the U.S. diplomat as the latter was about to leave his residence on [name indistinct] street in his diplomatic car with license plate No 87/104.

PSP, Amal Investigate Kidnapping

NC161114 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Beirut has disclosed that Political Attache William Buckley was kidnapped today. The spokesman said unknown gunmen kidnapped Buckley at 0930 today outside his apartment in Beirut. The spokesman refused to give any further details.

Meanwhile, efforts in Beirut by the Progressive Socialist Party's and Amal Movement's political and security commands are continuing in order to reveal the circumstances of the kidnapping.

White Car Sought

AB161121 Paris AFP in French 1105 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, 16 Mar (AFP) — All security services in West Beirut were put on alert on Friday in order to find a white car in which the American diplomat, William Buckley, was believed to have been abducted at 0730 local time (0530 GMT), a well-informed source has indicated.

Shaykani Urges Investigation

NC161154 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Three gunmen this morning kidnapped William Buckley, second secretary in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, as he was leaving his house on [name indistinct] Street in Ra's Beirut. Security reports indicate that the three gunmen were riding in a Renault-12 automobile when they intercepted the U.S. diplomat who was riding in a diplomatic car with license plate no 78/104. The gunmen forced the U.S. diplomat at gunpoint to leave his car, led him to their car, and fled to an unknown destination.

The incident, which occurred at 0740 today, was confirmed by a U.S. Embassy spokesman, who refused to reveal the circumstances of the incident.

On learning of the kidnapping of the second secretary in the U.S. Embassy, Justice Minister Roger Shaykhani asked the competent judiciary authorities to act quickly to find out the fate of the U.S. diplomat.

Further Details on 15 March Conference Session

Talks Leading to Walkout Noted

NC151406 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Telephone dispatch from the Voice of Lebanon mission in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpts] Tension was high at the Dialogue session today the conferees reported. At the beginning of today's session, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam submitted a statement by the Lebanese Forces and Christian Leagues in which the topics of Syrian domination and the Christians' fear of any possible concessions by the conference were discussed. Following this, the president said it was necessary to reach a joint working paper and speed up things, without being hasty, because it is important that the conference produce positive results. President al-Jumayyil asked Syrian Vice President Khaddam to effectively contribute toward reaching the cherished results. Khaddam answered that there are statements against Syrian domination. The president retorted: Other statements are issued by other factions. We do not take them into account but transcend them. Khaddam answered: I am an observer and will not interfere. I have repeatedly said that Syria's role is a conciliatory one and helps toward achieving Lebanon's sovereignty and stability. What can we offer you to realize this?

Pierre al-Jumayyil answered: The Christians have been subjected to various confrontations and suffered many tortures for 10 years. We must not be influenced by any statements issued here. We cannot prevent people from expressing their opinion.

[Former] President Franjiyah retorted: We, too, represent a Christian opinion. The talk in the name of Christians cannot be monopolized.

At this stage, the disussion became heated. The president was compelled to adjourn the session for some time. The conferees remained inside the hall. Following this, Franjiyah went to his wing. He was followed by Khaddam and Salam. They returned later to the hall and the atmosphere was cleared.

Tomorrow will be a day of contacts. No sessions will be held tomorrow on the occasion of the anniversary of the assassination of the late Kamal Junblatt. The sessions will resume on Saturday. Our correspondent will now report on the details of today's session and its minutes:

President al-Jumayyil opened the session saying: There are two topics: The security situation has improved considerably. The cease-fire is 80 percent observed. Some shells fell on certain areas and this was interspersed by sniper fire. The Security Arrangements Committee met at 1730 yesterday to discuss security affairs related to the deployment of patrols along the contact lines and to the stationing of observers. That committee will meet again today. We wish that the Socialist Progressive Party would raise the level of its representation at the committee by appointing Sharif Fayyad, and we also wish that the Lebanese Forces would do the same by appointing Abu Nadir. President al-Jumayyil added: There are attempts to separate the combatant forces in some areas in the mountain and in Beirut.

The second topic is the bilateral contacts which took place yesterday and this morning. The results have been positive. We have started discussing the details of the working papers. The conference must not take long. We must speed things up, but must not be hasty. We must achieve positive results to place Lebanon on a sound path for several years to come.

President al-Jumayyil continued: The course we have been following is sound. The meetings we held were positive and objective. We will continue along the same course. If there are any practical proposals, then let them be submitted now. We will discuss the proposals in the afternoon. The delegations will study these proposals to find common points that could lead to proposing a comprehensive working paper. Abu Jamal — Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam — will in turn study the proposals.

What did [former] President Franjiyah say? He said: I regret to say that during the banquet dinner last night the protocol placed the official before the guest. The weapons should be withdrawn from the fighters to stabilize the cease-fire. You promised to disband the militias before 5 February. The question of the Army could be studied with or without committees. Regarding the legislative decrees, it is sufficient to say whether they will be canceled or not. How long will we continue with such stupid information? Franjiyah reiterated his proposal to warn the United States. He said: It is time to study [words indistinct]. I hope that Abu Jamal will make the Saudi minister participate with him.

President Amin al-Jumayyil said: I apologize for the protocol mistakes. The disbanding of the militias is not a problem. That question could be included in the final statement after studying the questions of the Army and militias.

Franjiyah answered: The Army should be stationed on the border unless the citizens intend to carry out a revolution.

President al-Jumayyil said: We can do nothing about the information issue and a warning to the United States. None of us has the power to make a decision in this respect. This will be left for the new government.

President al-Jumayyil thanked Khaddam and Al-Mas'ud for their efforts.

Khaddam then said: I have seen the statement issued in Beirut by some persons who spoke of Syrian domination. Therefore, I cannot continue my work [word indistinct] and express a view. The role of the Syrian delegation will be confined to that of observation. The conference must form a committee.

The president answered: We request that you not heed press reports or statements. There are statements attacking the presidency of the conference. Therefore, I hope we will continue what we started. There is a large group trying to abort the conference. There are such groups among all of us.

Khaddam said: The signatories of these statements are represented here by Pierre al-Jumayyil and [former] President Camille Sham'un. The signatories of the statements are not common people. We must deal with those who are here or there. We do not want domination nor do we discuss domination. All we want is to try to offer help that could be useful. At one stage in 1978, we were accused of siding with one party. The opposition accused us of siding with the Lebanese Front. We actually sided with the front then. In 1983, we supported the opposition and extended aid to it.

What did Pierre al-Jumayyil say? He said: I would have preferred not to speak. I will speak frankly. Were it not for the Phalangists, 50 percent of the Christians in our areas would have departed. We must rid ourselves of all the alien presence if all of us do not agree to rid ourselves of the Syrian and Israeli presence. There are extremists on both sides. We must act in our own way to unite Lebanon. It is in the interests of Syria that Lebanon become a free, sovereign, and independent country.

Franjiyah said: There is a Lebanese law that punishes those who deal with Israel.

[Former] Prime Minister Salam intervened, considering what Pierre al-Jumayyil said as a denunciation of the contents of the statement [not further specified].

Pierre said: Permit me to withdraw because I cannot accept this tone by anyone. No one can outdo me when it comes to the questions of Christians and Lebanon.

The Saudi minister said: I propose the formation of a conference committee to prepare a joint working paper which I and Abu Jamal will study.

[Former] Prime Minister Karami said: Let Pierre speak because we can tell from what he says the malady and disease which led us to our present state of affairs. The main thing is that

there are Christians who deal with Israel. It is regrettable that some Christians consider the historic enemy as the savior. Karami added: Some might consider our brothers who die in the south for the sake of Lebanon not as heroes but as traitors. Therefore, I insist on a clear stand on this question. We used to demand Syrian unity. When Lebanon obtained its independence, we abandoned that demand. Either this matter is resolved at this conference or I will be the first to walk out.

President Amin al-Jumayyil intervened here. He said: We must restore the issue to its perspective. Lebanon is like a sick man. There has been a divorce among the Lebanese. The war has resulted in sick [word indistinct] which were inevitable because of the killings, evacuations, and massacres. He added: If the intentions were not clear regarding the [Lebanese] affiliation, trend, and cooperation, and regarding the definition of all the bases from which we will start at the end of the conference, we wouldn't have met. [sentence as heard] All those present want to tackle the situation resulting from 10 years of loss and tragedies. I hope, the president said, we will transcend this argument. I also hope Abu Jamal will withdraw his proposal. There is more than one party which wants to abort this conference. More than one side will be harmed by the conference's success.

Camille Sham'un said: The issue is much simpler than the importance given it. The Syrian domination has turned into cooperation.

At this stage, Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil exchanged sharp words with Sulayman Franjiyah, following which Franjiyah walked out of the hall. After several attempts, Franjiyah returned and the meeting resumed.

Further on Session, Contacts

NC151942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Telephone dispatch from the Information Ministry mission in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpts] The fifth meeting of the national dialogue body that convened this morning and ended in the afternoon achieved two positive results, despite the tension that prevailed during the meeting and caused its suspension for approximately 30 minutes when [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah left the conference hall following a sharp argument between him and [former] President Camille Sham'un and [Phalange Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil.

The first positive result was the body's reaffirmation of the decision issued during the first conference round in Geneva to the effect that Lebanon is a member of the Arab family and is affiliated to it in all its orientations and considerations [tur tawajjuhatih wa turuhatih]. This is what President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil emphasized in his speech today.

The second result was that the body issued a decision related to expediting the investigation of those detained by the public prosecution and the release by the parties concerned of those they have kidnapped and detained.

A committee of advisers was formed during today's conference. The committee was charged with studying the working papers that have been presented at the conference, and with preparing a unified paper regarding the necessary reforms. This paper will be submitted to the body's plenary meeting on Saturday for approval. This paper will be tantamount to the conference's final statement.

The committee of advisers began its meeting about 1 hour ago at the Grand Meetings Hall. It will continue its meeting until this formula [the unified working paper] is achieved.

Meanwhile, peripheral meetings were held. Among the most important ones were those between President al-Jumayyil and Saudi Minister of State Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud, and the one between the president and Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri in the presence of Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Saudi minister of state, and a number of advisers. Following the Al-Jumayyil-Birri meeting, Birri spoke about the subjects raised during the meeting. He said:

[Begin recording] [Birri] In Beirut, then in Lausanne, and at today's meeting that was held at the Meetings Hall between me and President al-Jumayyil in the presence of Minister Khaddam rather, Syrian deputy prime minister [laughter by unidentified persons; Birri corrects himself] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Saudi minister, and six advisers, we demanded:

— That a realistic plan be defined that will be immediately abided by for the sake of the south and its liberation. This is because the south has always been the key to the solution. We cannot possibly assent to any part of Lebanon being discussed while the south remains in pain.

— We also demanded that the president of the Republic assume responsibility for what took place, especially in the southern suburb [of Beirut], mountain, Iqlim al-Kharrub, West Beirut, and other Lebanese areas.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is he prepared to assume this responsibility?

[Birri] He has expressed his readiness, but up to now there has been nothing specific to carry out this readiness on the ground.

The third point is the abolition of political sectarianism so that we will be able to build a Lebanon of the future and not a Lebanon of tribes and clans that don the cloak of religion when actually they have nothing to do with religion other than to exploit it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Nabih Birri, Foreign Minister Elie Salim proposed to you the appointment of a Lebanese Shi'ite officer as commander of the Lebanese Army. You rejected this by saying: We do not seek positions but deep-rooted reforms.

[Birri] You seem to have more information that I have. [laughter] In any case, such a proposal was not made by Minister Salim. However, in all cases we were clear, and we were also clear at this morning's meeting. We said we did not come here for the

sake Shi'ite demands. I am fully aware that since 1943 to the present the Shi'ite Muslims suffered bitterly whether as a result of the recent foreign occupation or the internal occupation and colonization throughout this time. I know that the independence regime preferred that the Al-Litani River as I told Al-Jumayyil today flow into the sea rather than allowing its waters to irrigate the land in the south. I said this literally. I don't want to have the system that has deprived me to be a cause for depriving others. Therefore, there is nothing more deserving than for the deprived persons to adopt a general national stand and demand the rights of the Lebanese. The so-called guarantee for the Maronite community is a great deception of the Maronite community and its sons. This is because the president; Army commander; director of intelligence; prosecutor general at the Court of Cassation; director of public security; chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council; chairman of the Civil Service Council; Bank of Lebanon governor; and so forth, have come from the Maronite community since 1943. Yet, I ask where are the guarantees that have remained over the past 40 years, considering that we were involved in catastrophes in 1958, 1969, 1973, and 1975, the latter in which we are still involved?

Citizenship provides guarantees. When I acquire the citizenship of any particular country, I acquire the same guarantees as the president of that country. This is what we told Amin al-Jumayyil today. We asked him to alter even if at the last minute the (?course) of history which he has not written — the opposite that he has pursued. We told him he should learn a lesson from Ataturk and others with regard to Lebanon. This is the last chance. This is the reality. The deception of the Christians in Lebanon must end even if this end emanates from Lausanne. This deception of the Christians and the rights of the Christians is a great deception; it is the mirage the man lost in the desert sees.

Privileges do not protect. Guarantees, even for the Christians or those who have held the reins of power in Lebanon, are only attained when the citizen is bound to the country by citizenship, and not by sectarianism. This is what we must adhere to. This is what we must be helped in by [words indistinct] the Lebanese, Arab, and foreign journalists, and all politicians in the world if they truly seek Lebanon's interests. Let no one imagine that if the sectarian system in Lebanon is consecrated in Lebanon any country, whether near or far will be safe. That is the real danger. The sectarian system will perpetuate Israel's presence in Lebanon and not the opposite, whereas the national system alone, when established, will actually end the presence of the foreigner. [end recording]

[Unidentified voice says: "No more at this point," and Birri's statement is interrupted]

Another meeting is now being held at Walid Junblatt's suite. It is being attended by members of the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement.

Michel Samahah, spokesman for the Lebanese delegation to the conference, read a statement the dialogue body issued on its fifth meeting. He said:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] the contacts made by his excellency the president of the Republic with all the members of the dialogue body and Syrian and Saudi observers. The president then went to [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah's suite and met with Franjiyah. The two then returned and the meeting resumed. The incident [that took place during the dialogue causing Franjiyah to withdraw] was considered of no consequence because the controversy was personal. The conference affirms that it abides by the decisions made during its first round of meetings in Geneva concerning [Lebanon's] national orientation, that regards it as a member of the Arab family, affiliated to it in all its considerations and orientations [turuhatih wa tawajjuhatih]. Throughout the afternoon and tomorrow, contacts will continue among the participating delegations to achieve a common working paper. This paper will be submitted to the conference during its meeting scheduled for 1000 on Saturday. The conference's plenary session will not be held tomorrow because 16 March marks the anniversary of the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt.

All the members of the conference underscored Syria's positive role through the participation of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at the dialogue body's meetings and the constructive role he is playing in all the contacts that are taking place, with the participation of the Saudi minister who is also an observer at the Dialogue Body meetings. [end recording]

Reportage on Government, Opposition Statements

Al-Jumayyil Interviewed; Meets Khaddam

NC161352 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Dispatch by unidentified Phalange Party Radio reporter in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic today received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discussed with him the efforts made to narrow the differences over the issues discussed in the conference so as to reach a positive end to the conference.

It was learned that the conference is heading to substantially positive results in the political and security areas.

President al-Jumayyil spoke on Swiss television 15 minutes ago. He dwelt on the Lebanese situation and the problems involving it — those that are being tackled by the Lebanese leaders participating in the Lausanne conference.

Al-Jumayyil said the conference will reach an outcome compatible with Lebanon's interests and needs.

Answering a question about the demand for his resignation, Al-Jumayyil said: It is not a matter of persons, but of homeland. We want to save the homeland rather than the persons. What we have at hand now are chronic problems; problems that transcend personal and subjective matters. When we look back at the 1943 Charter, we find it helped Lebanon through a certain phase before colliding with new considerations that necessitate a new formula to suit the current situation.

Al-Jumayyil added: It is a matter of principle. The Lebanese institutions have collapsed and they should be rebuilt so that Lebanon can resume its distinguished role in the world.

When asked about the perils of Syrian domination, Al-Jumayyil said: No one can occupy Lebanon. Many have tried this throughout history and failed. There have been attempts at pressuring the institutions since 1924. However, the Lebanese showed an eagerness to keep their independence. Yes, the domination [over Lebanon] is a dream entertained by many Middle Eastern and international powers. These forces attempted to dictate their will on the Lebanese. Nevertheless, Lebanon will always remain sovereign, free, and independent. That is part of Lebanon's message for world stability and calm.

Further on Al-Jumayyil Interview

NC161311 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] French television's second channel conducted an interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil in Lausanne. Regarding the Lausanne conference, President al-Jumayyil said: The aim of the conference is to achieve national unity, and not to fragment the country. All parties want to end the fighting in implementation of the coexistence principle. The stands of the parties concerned are not so divergent as is being depicted abroad.

President al-Jumayyil added: It is not only Syria that is acting to solve the crisis. There are other sides, particularly Saudi Arabia, which are also doing so. No party can return to Beirut before the achievement of some results.

Birri On Israeli Factor, Dialogue

PM161135 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Mar 84 pp 18-21

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by Amin as-Siba'i — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In view of the continuous and mounting resistance against the Israeli occupation in the south, we should begin the interview with a question on the south. The question is: Do you see what is happening in the south as the beginning of a general resistance that will spread to all parts of the homeland? What is to be done to bring this about, now that the Israeli enemy has decided to remain in the south and freeze all withdrawal plans? This is clear from the successive signals the enemy has been sending as, for example, in the case of the recent confrontation in Al-Ma'rakah Township.

Answer: Let met first thank *AL-HAWADITH* for crowning the interview with a question on the south because the south is the origin of everything that has happened in Lebanon. I maintain that the south is the object of everything that has happened and is happening in Lebanon. The spark that triggered the war with all its fire and destruction came from there and must end there. What is really painful is this: Usually when part of a country is occupied, all the other parts, with all the state's political, social, cultural, and economic resources, unite in an effort to rescue and restore the occupied part. In Lebanon — and I say this with extreme bitterness, pain, and sorrow — the opposite is happening as usual. Full and integral Lebanese unity has been effectively maintained only in the south.

As regards Israel, it has, as you said, decided to remain in the south, but the people there have a different opinion and decision. The people there have already decided to return to the south and return the south to a united Lebanon. They have also decided that not a single Israeli soldier shall remain on Lebanese territory. I believe everyone should seriously consider this decision and its aims, and implement it. Even the Israeli enemy should reconsider its decisions, dreams, illusions, and mistaken belief that it could easily fulfill its designs in Lebanon. The Israeli enemy must understand that the southern decision will prevail and triumph, and that the region's bitter past experiences will not be repeated in southern Lebanon.

Question: To justify its occupation, Israel repeatedly talks about its dire need for security arrangements to safeguard Galilee or, in other words, its northern borders.

Answer: Israel's claims about the so-called security of Galilee are well known and have become boring. It is southern Lebanon that needs security and protection against Galilee and those beyond Galilee, not the opposite. I very clearly and frankly say: The Israelis must understand our resolve. They must completely withdraw from the south and all Lebanon on the basis of the armistice agreement and UN Security Council resolutions. Then the UN emergency forces should be strengthened and given everything they need to play their role in the south. The Lebanese Army should also be ordered to the south to safeguard it against the Israeli threat.

Question: After your meeting with the French presidential envoy, you said you would agree to the deployment of UN forces, including French forces, in Beirut. Is this development, especially in relation to the French attitude, a result of assurances and guarantees you received from French President Mitterrand?

Answer: Let me correct some of the assumptions on which you based your question. Our position on the question of substituting UN forces for the Multinational Force was adopted before our meeting with the French envoy. This has been our fundamental position for years. We believe the situation in Beirut is different from the situation in the south.

UN forces, including French forces, have been in the south since 1978 and Resolution 425. They have all played a positive role there in forestalling Israel's intransigent attitude. We want to consolidate that situation by giving the UN forces there greater effectiveness and capabilities to ensure implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and expand the UN forces' mandate in the south so that they may replace the Israeli Army.

As regards Beirut, the Amal Movement is against the blue berets coming to separate the east from the west because we are apprehensive about partition inclinations and the tendency to Cypriotize or Berlinize Beirut. We reject the presence of any state that has interests in Lebanon and the region. We believe that a UN force deployment in Beirut should cover all of Greater

Beirut. We do not want them to separate or stand as a barrier between the warring parties, because that would mean partition. We are very sensitive about this point. We have explained this position to the French and Americans. We have also explained it to all the ambassadors we recently met with. We did so because we don't want any mistakes which may result in partition.

Question: Do you believe it is possible to achieve this objective in the absence of a political accord?

Answer: Naturally it should be the result of political accord, at least as far as this matter is concerned. I have not heard a single voice to this day that opposes the deployment of UN forces in Greater Beirut. One should bear this in mind. My information is that the Lebanese regime is the only side obstructing this matter.

Question: In view of what has happened, do you believe that general reform is possible within the present formula and system, or should there be a new formula and system?

Answer: We have settled this matter. We have come out of the maze. We settled this matter during the first Geneva conference. The remedy to the internal problem can be summed up very simply in a few words, four words to be specific: abolition of political sectariansim. Political sectarianism is the cause of all Lebanon's suffering.

Question: With increasing talk about protection of the Beirut camps, the gunmen, and the resurrection of old agreements, in what context do you view relations with the Palestinian resistance?

Answer: The security of the camps and the Palestinian civilians is the same as the security of the Lebanese people, with no differentiation or discrimination. The police are here and everywhere else to provide security and enforce the law. Security in this context is general and applies to everyone without exception. Frankly, I don't understand why this matter is being raised now. The strange thing is that those now raising this issue were never heard from when our areas were under Phalangist control. Apart from that, let us consider the matter calmly. We do not see any problem. During my most recent visit to Damascus, I held a meeting with the brother leaders of the Palestinian resistance. Our discussions were candid and we agreed that the camps are protected and safeguarded on the basis that security is indivisible, and their security is part of our security and the security of the Lebanese people. We are equal. The Amal Movement has proved this in practice. The Sabra and Shatila massacres were almost as much massacres of the Lebanese as they were massacres of the Palestinians. Those who stormed Sabra and Shatila did not differentiate between Palestinian and Lebanese. I would like to mention that they killed 42 members of the same Lebanese family — the Al-Miqdadi family. That is the best proof that security is indivisible. That kind of differentiation between Lebanese and Palestinian is very harmful to the Palestinians first and then the Lebanese. That was the understanding reached during the Damascus meetings. Agreement was clear and complete.

Question: Those who oppose the abrogation of the 17 May agreement have repeatedly requested specific guarantees.

Answer: That is the wrong way to tackle this issue. They call for foreign guarantees when guarantees are available locally. We have frequently stated that we offer guarantees to the Christians within the framework of the general reform process. For example, we emphasize our suuport for keeping the post of president in Christian hands, Maronite hands to be specific. Under any change, the president should continue to be a Maronite Christian. The attempt to play on the emotions of the Christians are becoming increasingly exposed every day. The only real guarantees are those that stem from within Lebanon itself, not, for example, from Israel. Of all the bets, only Israeli guarantees have been losing bets. They know what happened in the mountains and what is happening elsewhere. They know more than us about the Israeli game which only provides guarantees for Israeli interests and designs.

Question: Perhaps the most important guarantee requested by those opposed to the agreement's abrogation is a guarantee that Syrian forces will withdraw from Lebanon.

Answer: Israel msut first withdraw from all Lebanese territories and the 17 May agreement must be abrogated. A strong patriotic government should then take over, and that government could study the position of the fraternal forces in Lebanon and decide whether to ask these forces to withdraw from Lebanon or stay to help Lebanon. The brothers should accept such a decision, whatever it may be. We have never agreed, and will never agree, to treat the brother Arab as we treat the enemy. It is simple logic that a guest or brother cannot be equated with a thief or any enemy.

Syrian Objectives, Sham'un's Views

PM151520 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Mar 84 p 3

[Erich Rouleau dispatch: "Syria Made Strong Intervention To Impose Cease-Fire"]

[Text] Lausanne — You should probably not be surprised at anything when you observe the Lebanese political stage. What seems inconceivable one day occurs the next without any logic at first glance.

On the evening of Tuesday, 13 March, President Amin al-Jumayyil held lengthy talks with Druze Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, his relentless enemy, who a short time ago was demanding that the head of state be put on trial as a "war criminal." Wednesday morning, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was due to meet with Camille Sham'un who boasts of initiating the collaboration between the Lebanese Front (coalition of Christian parties) and Israel. What will they discuss? "The restoration of Lebanon's territorial integrity," the chairman of the Lebanese Front told us. "We must envisage the withdrawal of the Syrian troops" — it is true that Damascus prefers the word redeployment — "and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces," our interlocutor added. On this last point, according to a reliable source, President al-Asad informed the Lebanese head of state that he had no objection to Beirut negotiating with Jerusalem to reach new "arrangements" ensuring the security of the Jewish state's borders without conceding "political or economic advantages" to the latter.

Damascus intends to play an arbiter's role whose scope and conditions are now known. In a message sent to the Lausanne conference delegates Tuesday, 13 March, President al-Asad listed four bases of his policy:

— Lebanon will have to restore "its unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity" on the basis of institutions "guaranteeing equal rights and duties for all its citizens, with respect for national balance" (meaning intercommunal balance).

— There is no military solution to the Lebanese problem, and only a dialogue between the warring sides is likely to restore national unity. In an obvious reference to the opposition forces, his allies, President al-Asad added that the military victories are absurd because "there cannot be any victors in a country that is destroying itself."

— Syria supports "an Arab and sovereign Lebanon," but intends to "remain equidistant from the two opposing camps." Thus, it will make every effort to promote an "equitable" compromise at the Lausanne conference. "Make certain it does not fail like the previous one" (which was held in Geneva), the Syrian president emphasized in his message to the participants. Lebanon and Syria "belong to each other, and will have to maintain special relations in the future as in the past" (Al-Asad avoids the word "preferential")...

Heated Exchanges

After reading the presidential message during a closed session of the conference, new Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam explained his government's policy in greater detail, specifying nonetheless that he did not intend to interfere in a "fraternal country's" internal affairs. His speech could also be summed up in four main points:

"Some Lebanese" should beware of the friendship Israel is showing them, and join the common task of securing from the Jewish state willing or unwillingly the withdrawal of its troops; the reform of the Lebanese political system — a "vital necessity" — ought to be the subject of an agreement in principle before the end of the conference, so that a government of national union could be rapidly formed; it is urgently necessary to adopt measures that can be brought home to the hundreds of thousands of Lebanese, both Muslim and Christian, who have been forced to flee from the fighting and massacres over the years; finally, the main priority is that a definitive cease-fire should be immediately implemented.

No sooner said than done. After heated discussions between President al-Jumayyil and Mr Junblatt Tuesday morning on differences of opinion, Mr Khaddam made a strong intervention in the early afternoon to impose a six-point "compromise" which, in addition to a cease-fire decreed Tuesday evening, makes provision for the withdrawal of the militias, the establishment of a no-man's-land between them, the reopening of Beirut's port and airport, and a stop to the press campaigns waged by the warring sides.

"None of us believes in a lasting end to the fighting until we have reached a comprehensive political agreement," Mr Sham'un told us shortly afterward. The chairman of the Lebanese Front, who is "moderately optimistic" in this respect, displays a rather rare realism. Born at the beginning of the century, equipped with a political experience gained over roughly 60 years, the man regarded as the most inflexible of the Maronite leaders is adapting with good grace to a situation which is particularly unfavorable to his camp.

"Between now and Thursday, or Friday at the latest, an agreement will probably be reached," he told us, before calmly adding: "The working document which I forwarded this morning together with Pierre al-Jumayyil (leader of the Phalange Party), and in which we demand the transformation of Lebanon into a federal republic with departments with a confessional basis, is not a declaration of principle. We will accept all reforms requiring one or two amendments to the Constitution." These relate to the creation of a Senate that would counterbalance a chamber in which a higher proportion of Muslims than Christians would exist, and provisions strengthening the prerogatives of the Sunni Muslim government chief to the detriment of the Maronite president of the Republic. Mr Sham'un also said the key posts in the administration and Armed Forces would be shared in a new way between Christians and Muslims, while the various militias would either be disarmed or transformed into regional police forces, each being responsible for maintaining order within the community to which it belongs. Aren't the Lebanese Forces (Christian militia) likely to oppose, as they have threatened to do, a compromise which corresponds so little to their objectives? Mr Sham'un shrugged his shoulders and replied: "They will do what Pierre al-Jumayyil and I tell them, just as the opposition parties will obey Syria's directives...."

It can be deduced from all this that the three partners at the Lausanne conference — the Lebanese Front, the opposition front, and Syria — are, despite appearances, playing for time for different but convergent reasons. If that is the case, the conference would not lead to a true national reconciliation, and result in a deal which would not deceive any of the contracting parties, especially as regards its durability.

Various Conference, International Contacts Noted

Al-Jumayyil Meets Junblatt, Birri

NC151606 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Within the context of the ongoing contacts and consultations in Lausanne, a meeting was held this afternoon comprising President Amin al-Jumayyil, Walid Junblatt, and Nabih Birri, with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attending.

President al-Jumayyil today phoned Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and briefed him on the atmosphere in Lausanne.

Al-Wazzan Receives Al-Asad Cable

NC161213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil this morning held consultations on the telephone with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan

regarding the atmosphere at the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne and developments in Lebanon, particularly those pertaining to security and cease-fire stabilization.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also received a cable from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in reply to the cable of congratulations he sent on the occasion of the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution. The text of the cable follows:

Mr Shafiq al-Wazzan, Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic: Thank you for your gracious congratulations on the 21st anniversary of the 8 March Revolution. I am happy to express best wishes for good health and happiness to you, and progress and prosperity to the fraternal people of Lebanon.

Mubarak Prepared to Intervene

NC160815 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has received a verbal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which Mubarak expresses Egypt's readiness to play a part, when the time comes, in discussing security arrangements between Lebanon and Israel.

Continuing Reportage on Cease-Fire Contacts

Committee Discusses Agreement

NC151613 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] At its today's meeting, the Security Arrangements Committee studied the broad lines of the third article of the agreement that has been reached in Lausanne regarding the formation of observer committees. The committee is scheduled to resume its discussions next Saturday.

Notified of Detainee Release Decision

NC151734 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] We have been informed by Lausanne conference sources that the conferees have agreed to issue orders for the release of all detainees. The Security Arrangements Committee was informed of the decision during its meeting today.

Meets 16 Mar; IDF Movements

NC161052 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Israeli military planes have conducted intensive sorties at medium altitude over the mountain area drawing antiaircraft fire from the emplacements in Tarshish, Al-Knaysah, and Upper al-Matn.

At 1000 today, an Israeli patrol crossed the Al-Awwali Bridge and took the coastal road to Wadi az-Zaynah. The Israeli convoy is comprised of six M-113 APC's and two Merkava tanks.

Guarded calm continues to prevail on the contact lines in the capital, suburb, and mountain. Intermittent sniper fire is occasionally heard, particularly on the Primo-Khayrallah axis. The Security Arrangements Committee has been informed, and is presently engaged in efforts to stop the sniping against the Army positions.

PSP, Amal 'Security Patrols'

NC151935 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and Amal Movement have instituted security patrols in the nationalist area in Beirut's southern suburb. These patrols aim to follow up the implementation of the cease-fire. They will make certain that it is being adhered to by PSP and Amal members. The patrols will also confront any types of violations in accordance with the strict orders given by Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri regarding the need to stabilize stability and peace.

Fadi Afram: Syrian Domination To Be Resisted

NC151848 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, Mr Fadi Afram, described the Lausanne conference as an illusion and nothing more than the application of Syrian decisions made in advance. The result, he said, would be no more than a government representing a Syrian mandate. Mr Fadi Afram said that after a year and a half of President al-Jumayyil's term of office, and after the experiment to rebuild Lebanon on the basis of the (?pact) of 1943, there had been only failure. It was no longer possible to reconstruct Lebanon on that basis. The new Lebanon could only come through a formula preserving the freedom of all communities, and religious and social groups.

The Lebanese Forces commander also affirmed that the Christians of the mountain and Ash-Shuf would return to their homes and villages after the establishment of a new formula for Lebanon.

The Lebanese Forces, he said, will oppose politically or on the ground any decision that does not take the views and aims of the Lebanese Forces into account, and the interests and aspirations of the Lebanese Christian community.

Mr Fadi Afram affirmed that the attitude of the Lebanese Forces went beyond partisan and political considerations, as it was the Christian people that [word indistinct] the extent and frontiers of the Lebanese Forces. In reference to the attitude of the Phalange Party, it was a political one, and as President Amin al-Jumayyil is connected to it, then there is a need to support him.

Mr Fadi Afram added that the Christian society now centered [as heard] on the Lebanese forces as the policy followed over the last year and a half was not appropriate for it. What is important is to find an entity for the Christian society to conform with the other entities both geographically and demographically, particularly with the Druze society; but this could only come after the

discussion of several problems, including the primary one of the return of the displaced people of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh.

Answering a question on the attitude of the Lebanese Forces in the event of Syria imposing itself upon Lebanese decisionmaking, Mr Fadi Afram said the Syrian plan had started with the abrogation of the 17 May accord, and which is now stressed at the Lausanne conference, which in turn is preparing the formation of a Lebanese Government that would apply the Syrian plan which is contrary to any form of decentralization. Mr Afram said Damascus wants to dominate all of Lebanon by the [word indistinct] of a central Lebanese regime; but this will be opposed by the Lebanese Forces on the ground, and they will reject and resist all attempts to impose hegemony over Lebanon.

Finally, Mr Fadi Afram said the Lebanese Forces were not against relations with any country in the world, but only expected mutual respect and recognition of Lebanon. However, this situation does not exist between Lebanon and Syria.

Christian Raps Syrian Stand

NC152044 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Lausanne conference held one session today, during which the Syrian intention to impose a solution upon Lebanon became apparent. The session was characterized by a sharp argument between Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and [former] President Camille Sham'un on one hand, and [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and [former] President Franjiyah on the other. That enabled the Syrian observer to hide his maneuvers behind Syrian good intentions which he attempted to show. The argument occurred because of the statement the Lebanese Forces and Christian Leagues issued last Tuesday evening. The statement rejected all attempts aimed at denying the free decisionmaking to the Lebanese and Christians regarding their destiny and a solution to their crises.

What can be deduced from today's session was the appearance of signs of the imposition of a Syrian solution. These signs precede recommendations that may be issued by the Lausanne Conference, and reveal the Syrian intention to dominate, deny freedoms, and prevent the exercise of true democracy in Lebanon.

Here a responsible source of the Lebanese Forces asked that if Syria cannot presently tolerate or accept a press statement issued by a meeting, then how can it tolerate real opposition in the future.

The source said the Syrian position revealed today affirms that the friendliness the Syrian side showed toward the Christian side at Lausanne, and toward the Lebanese Government, was only artificial friendliness to cover its attempt to impose a capitulationist solution on Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces source urged the Lebanese to be wary and not be carried away by Syrian maneuvers or invitations that are being given to certain participants in Lausanne to visit Damascus, particularly since the Lebanese citizen still remembers and suffers from the results of such invitations and meetings that took place in the past.

The source expressed his strong surprise at the conference's suspension tomorrow because of the anniversary of the assassination of the late Kamal Junblatt and said: We are not against mourning for Kamal Junblatt, but do oppose making the occasion tantamount to a national day requiring the suspension or postponement of conference activities. We are also against ignoring the feelings of a large section of the Lebanese people, particularly the Christian community. When Kamal Junblatt was assassinated, there were also massacres of Christians in the Ash-Shuf, in which there were over 160 martyrs. Therefore, the conference must not see with one eye, and should have at least indicated that the suspension of the conference was in mourning for Kamal Junblatt and the innocent Christian martyrs killed on that occasion.

Iddih Welcomes Abrogation, Criticizes U.S.

PM151559 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Mar 84 p 3

[Report on telephone interview with Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih by Mustafa Idris — date, place not given]

[Text] Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih has welcomed the Lebanese Government's abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He urged Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to gear his international efforts toward forcing Israel to abide by the 1949 Lebanese-Israeli armistice agreement, which defines the borders between the two sides and treats the two sides equally on security and military matters.

In a telephone interview with *'UKAZ* Iddih said Lebanon has no right to sign a peace agreement with Israel in violation of a unified Arab decision, because this step creates gaps for the Israeli enemy and gives him the right to occupy Lebanon.

Iddih pointed out that the Lebanese Government and Chamber of Deputies were the victims of a U.S.-Israeli trick when the United States promised to compel Israel to withdraw from Lebanon immediately after the agreement's approval. He added that the deputies approved the agreement because they believed it would bring an Israeli withdrawal, but were surprised by the condition sprung by Israel calling for a prior Syrian withdrawal.

The Lebanese leader criticized the U.S. role in Lebanon. He said the Reagan administration's involvement in sending the Marines in and then pulling them out in that manner reveals how confused the U.S. policy in the Middle East is. He asked: "What part did the U.S. Marines play in Lebanon?"

Raymond Iddih said the National Reconciliation Conference recently proposed by President Amin al-Jumayyil is a final opportunity that must be seized. He added that the circumstances of the second dialogue round are more positive because the 17 May agreement, which was the primary stumbling block at the first round, has now been eliminated.

He urged all Lebanese factions to focus their attention on the most important issue: the liberation of Lebanon and restoration of Lebanese sovereignty. He asked: Should the Lebanese discuss their domestic differences or direct all their attention to the liberation of their territory first, and then turn to internal matters

away from foreign interference? He pointed out if the leaders involved in the dialogue go to this meeting with the same negative spirit, then the result will be a confirmation of partition and consolidation of foreign occupation.

Shi'ite Leader Comments on Lausanne Conference

NC152133 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] We have received the following from the office of His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council

The office of his eminence regrets to announce that the name of his eminence has been involved in the affairs of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne. His eminence wishes the conference success in achieving the people's hopes and in safeguarding the people's rights. The office wishes to point out that his eminence has nothing to do with the Lausanne conference, and has not given anyone any special directives. We also point out that his eminence does not approve in advance any results that the conference may achieve. His eminence, the office added,will take an appropriate position in light of the results that will be achieved.

The office of his eminence said: Shaykh Shams ad-Din's views on the Lebanese crisis are well known through the statements of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, as well as the statements of his eminence. His eminence's news conference of 12 March reflects his official position.

Press, Editors' Doyens Call for Abolishing Decrees

NC152052 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Press doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki and editors doyen Milhim Karam have submitted a note to the Lausanne conference, demanding that all decrees and stipulations related to press issues that were issued following the Publications Law published [in the *OFFICIAL GAZETTE*] in 1962 be abolished, and to regard this law alone as a sufficient basis for press legislation and coordination between the state and press. The press and editors associations will draw up a bill for amending the Publications Law in accordance with the new developments necessitated by the progress of the press and growing importance of free expression. Doyen Karam said the note met with a response and welcome from the conferees.

Damascus Radio Notes 'Hostile' U.S. Attitude

JN151533 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, U.S. efforts are not frozen, but have turned into open plots to involve the Arabs in plans and strategies that serve the core of U.S. policy, which is to entrench Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including southern Lebanon. The Reagan administration is hoping for the failure of the Lebanese national dialogue so it can undermine the big achievement which the Lebanese accomplished for their homeland when they abrogated the agreement of submission and humiliation with the Zionist entity.

Both the United States and Israel know that the unity of the Lebanese means the removal of the Lebanese from the zone of U.S. and Israeli pressure and influence, which are h to their Arabism and to their collective effort to liberate the south and therefore consolidate their country's independence, unity, and territorial integrity. The United States also knows full well that it was with Syrian support that Lebanon torpedoed U.S. moves and foiled U.S. plots against Lebanese territory and the entire Middle East.

It was with all this in view that the U.S. President made his threatening and provocative statements. He does not acknowledge anything called independent Lebanon. He also does not acknowledge Arab rights in Palestine. He always intentionally portrays Arab struggle against Israeli occupation as the highest form of international terrorism. When President Reagan calls the Lebanese struggler and the Palestinian fedayeen terrorists, he acknowledges the Zionists' claim to every Arab territory on which Zionist soldiers set foot. In view of this U.S. attitude, the Lebanese are called upon to further consolidate their ranks, hold tenaciously to their homeland, and make the liberation of their territory the slogan of their national dialogue and proof of their fealty to their homeland and compatriots.

If Israel's armies, which are backed by all U.S. evils, have failed to protect any Israeli military patrol anywhere in southern Lebanon, then they will not be able to seize a single inch of Lebanese territory if all the Lebanese people turn into resistance men and all the rifles in the hands of the Lebanese swear to liberate the south.

U.S. efforts take different forms. They do not stop at one objective of U.S. strategy. We admit that the United States can penetrate through more than one door and pursue more than one course. But we are also aware of all U.S. designs, whether concerning the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference or the establishment of a front h to the national aspirations of the masses of our Arab nation.

We are certain that the attempts to take vengeance on the Lebanese people by undermining their unity and independence will be wrecked on the rock of the Lebanese people's determination to come out of the vicious circle of anxiety and death which only serves Israel's aim of entrenching its occupation of the south.

We are also certain that Arab ambitions are stronger than the U.S. plot. When the United States believes it can make the Arabs the enemies of their own homeland and nation, it ignores the existence of a people who have revolted against their colonialists for a whole century. The Arab homeland is not a land without people, and the Arabs are not a people without history. When the U.S. President believes that he can return to the Eisenhower Doctrine of filling the vacuum, he must be dreaming. All Arabs agree on one fact; Israel is occupying their territory, and all those who fell on the Arab territory were killed by U.S. weapons in Israeli hands.

The U.S. President is also mistaken if he thinks that the masses of a whole nation can be hostage to one ruler or one regime which has chosen to betray sacred Arab causes. Tutelage over the people and their national and human resources by any ruler is rejected by the masses. Undoubtedly, the United States has had such an experience when it considered the shah of Iran an eternal ruler and when it ignored the existence of the Cuban people. The result was a revolution against the United States in more than one country in the world.

While aware of U.S. power and ability to hatch plots and enlist agents within its ranks we, the Arab nation, will not agree that the United States is the decisionmaker on our territory or the trustee over our future. The toppling of the Shultz agreement and the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut were the result of Arab popular action. The daily killing of Zionist invaders in southern Lebanon is also the result of popular action.

This is Syria's strength which the United States cannot deny. As long as Syria represents the conscience of this nation and the ambitions of its sons, Reagan will not find it easy to achieve his ambition of domination, and Israel's objective of occupation and expansion will not become an established fact. The defeatism of one ruler or the capitulation of one regime does not mean the capitulation of a whole nation. The United States and its agents will only have to wait and see the established facts which the masses of our nation will create, facts which embody the Lebanese people's will for unity and the Arab nation's will for victory.

U.S.-Israeli Military Agreement Reported

JN151706 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Entity of Zionist enemy: U.S. President Ronald Reagan has signed a new military agreement between the United States and the Zionist enemy. The Israeli paper *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* said that the agreement included the storage of U.S. heavy weapons, such as tanks, guns, and equipment in occupied Palestine. This agreement follows the secret negotiations that took place during the past 2 weeks within the framework of the joint U.S.-Israeli military committee and after the recent trip Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir paid to Washington where he concluded the aggressive strategic alliance agreement with Reagan.

Ash-Shar' Receives UN Envoy, Message

JN151442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' received this morning UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart, who delivered a message from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Az-Zu'bi Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation

JN151714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Robert Adley, head of the British parliamentary delegation currently visiting Syria in response to an official invitation by the Syrian People's Assembly, praised the important and prominent role being played by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership in the Arab region. He also praised Syria's humanitarian stands toward the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. He expressed great sympathy with and understanding of these stands and expressed feelings of sorrow for the suffering of the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their right to self-determination and the restoration of their legitimate rights.

Adley noted the faulty U.S. Middle East policy as proved by its failure in Lebanon. He also noted the relations existing between the United States and Israel and considered them one of the main problems in the region.

He made these remarks when People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi received him and his delegation today, in the presence of Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee, and some Assembly members.

Adley expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria — a visit which provided him with useful information about the current issues in the Arab region. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of dialogue and contacts on the parliamentary level in order to explain the Arab issues to the European peoples, who are showing further sympathy with the Arabs against the Zionist settlement aggression.

Az-Zu'bi then talked and stressed that our people, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, are determined to continue steadfastness and confrontation in defense of our Arab nation's just causes. He indicated the role that the West European countries could play in establishing a just and lasting peace in the region.

Shamir Stresses 'Symbolic Importance' of Elat

TA151746 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1645 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Elat, 15 Mar (ITIM) — "The 'Uvda Operation, in which Elat was freed during the war of independence, has symbolic importance. It teaches future generations that if Israel wants to be powerful and deeply rooted in its land, it must establish facts, and those facts must be just. Israel has an inalienable right to its land. However, this right will not be justified or recognized without establishing facts on the ground."

This was said today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the traditional ceremony of raising the Israeli flag over the mandate police station of Umm Rashrash. This ceremony commemorated 35 years since the freeing of Elat.

The prime minister said that 35 years ago, the fact of Israeli sovereignty in the area was established by the daring, resourcefulness, and great combat ability of the IDF.

The prime minister said: "It is advisable to remind everybody that even after Israeli sovereignty over this site was determined, there were elements in the world, among them superpower elements, who disputed the fact we established in coming here. These elements have schemed against this place. All these plots have passed away since Israel established new facts, and this is important to learn for the present and future."

Shamir on Steps To Decrease Inflation Rate

TA151623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister says that in the next few months special steps will be taken to decrease the rate of inflation, and that preparations are being made and methods are being examined. According to him, the first signs of success in the fight to decrease the trade deficit are appearing. However, in the fight against inflation, there is no success so far.

February Consumer Price Index Up by 12 Percent

TA151515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Last month's consumer price index rose by 12 percent — which is a peak rise for the month of February, and is double the index registered last February.

Poll Shows Majority Pleased With Shamir Performance

TA161050 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 p 1

[Dahaf poll]

[Text] The majority of the public (64 percent) is pleased with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's performance and a smaller majority (55 percent) is also satisfied with Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad's performance. However, only a minority (30 percent) is satisfied with the government's general performance while the majority (59 percent) is not pleased with it. Only 43 percent expect an Alignment-led government to perform properly while 50 percent doubt this.

These are the findings of a public opinion poll conducted by Dahaf and commissioned by *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*. The poll was conducted on 1,165 people during the first week of March.

Question: How would you rate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's performance? (The answers are quoted in percentages and the results of the poll conducted in January appear in parentheses): Very good — 9 percent (10); good — 55 (53); not good — 27 (25); bad — 5 (10); no opinion — 4 (2).

Question: How would you grade Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad's performance? Very good — 9 percent (8); good — 46 (42); not good — 30 (30); bad — 11 (15); no opinion — 4 (5).

Question: How would you grade the government's general performance? Very good — 5 percent (3); good — 34 (27); not good — 38 (39); bad — 21 (28); no opinion — 2 (3).

Question: If an Alignment-led government were in power, how would it perform? Very good — 4 percent (8); good — 39 (40); not good — 30 (30); bad — 20 (10); no opinion — 7 (4). [Figures in brackets, which do not equal 100 percent, are as published]

Note: When compared to January, the poll shows a general improvement in the appreciation of the government and a relatively low level of expectations about an Alignment government.

MA'ARIV's Harif on Talks on IDF Redeployment

TA161144 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 p 15

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Arens Held Secret Talks With Rabin and Gur on the Scope of the IDF Withdrawal"]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has recently held secret meetings with military figures who are in the Alignment leadership — former Chiefs of Staff Yitzhaq Rabin and Mordekhay Gur — to reach an understanding on the scope of the IDF withdrawal in southern Lebanon.

One can safely assume that this move was taken in consultation with the prime minister. Arens decided to take this initiative out of the desire to calm the domestic scene on the IDF redeployment following the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord and the need for unilateral security arrangments in southern Lebanon.

It is really the question of what line the IDF should be stationed along to secure the fundamental objective of the Lebanon war — peace for the Galilee — that lies behind the term "security arrangements."

Earlier there was no dispute about the "40- to 45-km line." Now, however, in view of the possibility that Damascus might take control of the Lebanese regime, Israel only has one choice: To determine for itself the security arrangments it needs.

What, then, are "adequate security arrangements?"

This is the question to which the defense minister wants to find an answer through deliberations with the Alignment's strategists. He believes that achieving a consensus on this could calm what he calls "the internal scene" and help Israel's cause in the political arena. No doubt there could be some Alignment members who would regard the "security arrangements" in southern Lebanon as a de facto partition of Lebanon. There was a reason behind Prime Minister Shamir recently sending messages to the EC foreign ministers to explain the absolute need for the security arrangements Israel wants to determine in southern Lebanon.

Arens's credo is very simple: We must have national unity. The domestic conflict weakens our position vis-a-vis Lebanon and strengthens the Syrian hope that Israel will not be able to stay in Lebanon for long and consequently can be disregarded. Its forces in Lebanon should be harassed so that the internal demand in Israel for a withdrawal against the background of the attacks on its soldiers will ultimately force the IDF to withdraw empty-handed.

It is a foregone conclusion that in his talks with Rabin and Gur — which are likely to be followed by similar meetings with Former Chief of Staff Hayim Bar-Lev and other Alignment figures — Arens never made a secret of his own views about the withdrawal line. As far as we know, he maintains that the Al-Awwali line should not be left unless there is an alternative line to the one currently occupied by the IDF that will guarantee the advantages necessary to most effectively prevent terrorism against the Galilee settlements.

Arens does not believe this is an "ideological matter," but something very substantive which can be measured by only one criterion: security for the Galilee settlements.

Yet the fundamental question discussed at the meetings with Rabin and Gur was far broader: Should Israel be satisfied with security arrangements only, or should we take into account Syria's current status in Lebanon as well?

Should we make do with a short-term perspective — namely, remaining in southern Lebanon and ignoring the other parts of Lebanon — or should we consider things over the long-term, taking into consideration that not only will the Syrians not withdraw from Lebanon but they will do everything in their power to fortify their standing in the military as well as the political levels?

We have been told that Rabin and Gur's initial reaction was "let us consider the matter." They did not reject it out of hand. Naturally if the former chiefs of staff express their opinions on the desirable withdrawal line in southern Lebanon, their views will carry greater weight than those of the Alignment politicians who address the Cabinet day in and day out practically with the foreboding demand: "Get out of Lebanon."

In all honesty, the Cabinet can really pat itself on the back for scoring one unique achievement, which arose perhaps against the background of the common traumatic experience with the United States in Lebanon: That the understanding and cooperation between Washington and Jerusalem are not only mere words. When the prime minister said a few days ago that there are "excellent relations" between the two countries, his statements were **completely substantiated** in the quiet dialogue that is currently underway between the two countries in extremely vital spheres, in the spirit of Reagan's unforgettable declaration on "**our determination** (that of himself and the prime minister at the White House on 29 November 1983) to strengthen and develop ties to serve our two countries' common interests."

In these circumstances, it does not look like Israel would encounter difficulties from the United States when it comes to a decision on security arrangements.

That is why Arens was right in talking about the need to quell the "internal scene" because the "external" one — that is, the United States — which is currently calm will be able to likewise cool its Western allies.

The apprehension that once the U.S. Marines are out of Lebanon the common interest shared by the United States and Israel in Lebanon will automatically have weakened, and as a consequence also the "strategic cooperation" that stemmed from it, was groundless. Ever since the Marines pulled out of Lebanon, the rapprochement with Israel has gained momentum.

Previously Reagan said that he decided to expand the cooperation "in the spheres where our interests meet, primarily in the political-military realm," which is why he instructed the establishment of a "military-political team that will examine ways to increase cooperation between Israel and the United States." There is no reason to think that this idea has remained illusory, as a dream followed by no real action. After all, not too long ago we read about the meeting held by the joint political-military group in Washington. It is true that the details of the discussions were not leaked because someone makes sure that the deliberations remain confidential — but why should one think that the meeting was solitary, followed by none others? And why should anyone assume that such meetings can only be held in Washington? Or why think that when none other than the U.S. President publicly announces that the group will handle, among others, issues such as joint planning, joint maneuvers, and the stationing of U.S. equipment on Israeli soil, he does not know what he is talking about, or that there should be someone who would prevent these from materializing?

It is also legitimate to surmise that since 3 months have already gone by since Reagan first made this statement, this time has not been wasted. We would even go so far as to "dare" assume that the visit in Israel last January of U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] General John Vessey did not go unmarked. After all, the U.S. Chairman of the JCS is not a simple tourist or pilgrim. And when Vessey himself declared only a few days ago that Israel is "a strategic asset" for the United States, obviously this man is well versed in his country's affairs and is not just making an off-the-cuff statement. Besides, he is not running in the primaries.

It would also make sense to believe that tired, worn-out, and disappointed as the United States is from the Lebanese trauma, it wants to latch on to a stable, promising, and capable element.

The assessment in Washington is largely that the U.S.-Israeli combination is stronger than any other Soviet-Arab alliance the Soviet Union establish in the region.

In our opinion, the United States has a good reason to embrace such an assessment while drawing the lessons of the overinvolvement in Lebanon. To the best of our knowledge at the moment, the U.S. aircraft that were downed in combat in Lebanon were intercepted because the pilots did not have **updated** maps! And this is just a minor detail, which also shows something with respect to assessing the necessity for strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel. This is more true since the United States has realized that although it may have something to teach Israel in the military sphere, it still has a lot to learn from it as well.

Last week we heard that Secretary of Defense Weinberger — who has thus far been known to regard Israel as a liability rather than a strategic asset — has been softening his stance toward Israel. One of the explanations for this major change is that he aspires to succeed Shultz as secretary of state after the presidential elections. Another explanation is that he had to take into account the [word illegible] of the bilateral strategic cooperation. Apparently the second explanation is correct. It would be hard to imagine that everything that is taking place can be done contrary to the spirit of the wishes of the Pentagon "boss". It is true that Reagan welcomed this cooperation, but did we not experience times when, even after Reagan's blessing, Weinberger did not hesitate to put spokes in this cooperation's wheels, as we saw when the supply of the items necessary fot the "Lavi" aircraft was suspended? Also, if he wants to move his office to Foggy Bottom, if Reagan is reelected, does he need to change his attitude toward Israel now? Is it **he** who is running for elections? Everyone knows that in order to get the foreign affairs portfolio, Weinberger should win the President's confidence again and obtain the President's goodwill once again — not Israel's.

Perhaps there is still another explanation: Up until recently, the Pentagon believed that the major U.S. front is along the Persian Gulf. So therefore Israel is a strategic liability because it forces the United States to make commitments to unimportant strategic foci (such as Lebanon for instance). Jerusalem believes that that line has now changed, and the emphasis is no longer on the Gulf area; hence Israel is no longer a "liability." Rather, as the Weinberger circle believe, Israel is strategically important to the United States. Thus, for example, when Husayn visited Washington a few weeks ago, he expressed his fears over Syria, saying that should it redirect its efforts from the Lebanese front, it will direct all its attention to undermining the situation in Jordan. As far as we know from U.S. forces, Washington sympathized with Husayn's worries. If this is so, it looks as though on this matter Israel "too" has something to say, which is another manifestation of the change the secretary of defense has been undergoing vis-a-vis Israel.

That is why Israel can presently follow events in Lebanon with relative placidity. It managed to guarantee its security. If the internal political turmoil does not spill over to strictly defense issues, it may have security arrangments that will bring about the desired quiet in the Galilee. And is this not the objective of the Peace for Galilee operation? If, as a byproduct, after all the pain and the dear cost of the Lebanon affair, Israel really does have a true pact with the United States, that will not be real compensation for the loss of lives, but it will nevertheless be another link in fortifying its security and emerging from its isolation in this war-torn area.

Junblatt Interviewed on Lebanese Situation

TA161020 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 Political Supplement p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt by special correspondent in Lausanne Edwin Eytan at "small hotel on Lake Geneva"; date not given]

[Text] Walid Junblatt believes that Israel's policy in Lebanon is a "smashing failure" and that only the Israeli political and military establishments are to blame for it.

When I first met Junblatt, about 4 months ago during the first Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva, he still believed that Israel held important cards in Lebanon. However, Lebanon has since then abrogated the agreement of last May with Israel and Syrian influence currently dominates the entire country. Junblatt now believes that Israel has a relatively small influence on Lebanese affairs at present. "Of course, this does not apply to the southern part of the country which is under Israeli control. However, Israel does not have much to say or do in the rest of the country."

My meeting with Junblatt took place in a small hotel on Lake Geneva, some 40 kms from Lausanne, where the Lebanese statesman was staying. Junblatt arrived in Switzerland accompanied by his mother and his young U.S. wife and, as he always does, with a very small team and no more than two or three bodyguards. In anticipation of his participation in the international conference, he is wearing a suit and even a tie; a bright red one, as if to show that he is the leader of the "Populist Socialist Party." He is always the gentleman; he even apologized for having bothered me to come to his place.

The Druze leader looked calm and was in a good mood. Most observers believe that he and his Shi'ite ally, Nabih Birri, stand out as the main winners in the recent fighting and to a certain extent also at the negotiating table in Lausanne. He unhesitatingly confirms that a radical change has occurred since the Geneva conference. "When you Israelis were 'inside', the Syrians were outside. Now, the Syrians have almost taken over and you are outside." According to Junblatt, only Israel is to blame for this situation.

"When I look at your leaders, it seems to me I am seeing the reflection of our own ancient mummies, like Pierre al-Jumayyil and Camille Sham'un who are relics of another era, with their frozen ideas and their armored interests. It is not only a matter of age but also of mentality. With an establishment such as the Israeli one, no wonder that the Israeli policy in Lebanon since 1982 has been a total failure. Menahem Begin or Yitzhaq Shamir may be blamed for it, but there is no doubt that the main person responsible for this total fiasco is Ari'el Sharon.

"Also, your military and political experts made one mistake after another. The only thing they know and the only method they understand is force. You sent a military column of armored vehicles and tanks beyond the Al-Awwali River, into the heart of Lebanon and sometimes even as far as Khaldah and it seems nobody knows the reason for it. Such moves are simply ineffective. This does not frighten people and does not make an impression on them. They become accustomed to such phenomena; it has reached the point that they hardly peek out from their windows to look at the passing tanks," Junblatt added.

Mrs Junblatt, Walid's mother, sat close to us and listened to our conversation. She is the widow of Walid's father, the former Druze leader Kamil Junblatt, and to this day she remains "a lady of the world."

"One gets used to fear," she observed. "The Lebanese have seen so many horrible things that hardly anthing frightens them anymore."

Walid added: "Israel is left with only a few cards in Lebanon. The occupation of the southern area is not only troublesome but it also weakens your influence on other parts of Lebanon, not necessarily due to moral reasons although these also exist. It is more related to the continuation of what you term as terrorist actions in the south, which encourage all the anti-Israeli elements. You will find out that the Shi'ites will present you with a very difficult problem. You may also learn that theirs is a more complex problem than that of the Palestinians."

Junblatt's knowledge about Israel and its policy is noteworthy. He showered me with questions about the electoral chances of various parties and figures. He seems to believe that the downfall of the Likud government will be a positive occurrence. He also questioned me about Yitzhaq Navon: What kind of person is he? Is it true that he does not have any military experience, contrary to Peres and Rabin? Does he really speak such good Arabic as the papers claim? Will he attend the next meeting of the Socialist International?

Junblatt does not say it in so many words but he hints that this could be a good opportunity for Navon and him to meet: "This is one of the good things that the Socialist International can still help bring about."

Walid Junblatt has been the "enfant terrible" of the Lausanne conference since it opened on Monday. He abstained from granting interviews or even from holding private meetings with foreign correspondents in order not to exacerbate the situation. However, during his rare public appearances he made his position and his thoughts very clear.

In the opening of the ceremony, while Amin al-Jumayyil was reading his prepared speech, Junblatt sat with his eyes closed and his hands covering his face. Upon emerging from the conference hall, he could hardly conceal the contempt he feels toward the Lebanese president. The few words he said were usually: "If he had some respect left, Al-Jumayyil would commit suicide," or "the man who presumes to be the Lebanese president has not yet noticed that he is at war with the Lebanese people." On the eve of the conference Junblatt stated that the Lebanese people should "tie a rope around Al-Jumayyil's neck and hang him on a tree."

However, in the working meetings of the conference, Junblatt voiced a more realistic approach. He came out in support of a cease-fire, of the proposal to establish a body of observers of the cease-fire, and he even held a tete-a-tete meeting with the person he hates the most, Amin al-Jumayyil. "If we want to get away from past national and religious differences, there is no avoiding the need to find a realizable solution for our problems. What I wish for Lebanon is an electoral system based on proportional representation similar to the Israeli system."

Junblatt reclined in his chair when I asked him how could he make such a suggestion, a suggestion that might deprive the Druze who constitute only 6 or 7 percent of the population of any influence whatsoever. He replied: "The time has come to extricate ourselves from the sectarian and communal past. Were we to accept Al-Jumayyil's proposals in the short run, a Druze would most probably be the Senate's chairman. However, Lebanon remains the same. I want a modern system of political parties. I am sure that the Lebanese socialists (whom he leads) would receive more votes than the 6 to 7 percent the Druze constitute within the general population."

At the end of the conference, Junblatt plans to return to Lebanon and live "in (Harine), where the residence of my family is." He added: "I will go there to plan Lebanon's future. The Syrians are now the main force in our country. I must be there to conduct negotiations with them and to defend the interests of the Druze and of Lebanon. I played the Syrian card for a while and everybody knows that I made no secret of it. I did this openly and honestly since the fall of 1982." Junblatt did not say that he chose this path when he began to think that the Israeli policy in Lebanon had gone bankrupt.

What would you advise Israel to do in order to better serve its interests in Lebanon, I asked him.

Junblatt pored for a long time over my question. He reclined in his chair, crossed his hands behind his head and asked for another cup of coffee. "It is not for me to advise Israel. Moreover, I do not know whether it is not too late and whether Israel may still be able to achieve anything at all in Lebanon. Basically, however, two facts are clear to me: Stop relying only on force, force is effective but not sufficient. It does not help solve fundamental problems in a permanent manner. Now, in the wake of your failure in Lebanon you should start using another language. The second fact is: Be more careful when choosing your friends and allies."

Israeli Druze Embrace Demands of Lebanese Druze

TA150845 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Nurit Kahana]

[Text] The follow-up committee on Druze affairs has recently embraced the political demands of their Lebanese coreligionists led by Walid Junblatt.

Emissaries associated with the Lebanese Druze leader have recently conferred with Israeli Druze and Israeli notables to coordinate positions on the issue of the establishment of a national legislative body, a constituent assembly which would constitute the foundation for an independent Druze political entity in Lebanon.

Phalangists Urge Druze To Discuss Cantonization

TA160545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A turning point in relations between Druze and Christians in Lebanon: Leaders of the Phalangist military militia have called on Walid Junblatt to enter negotiations on the question of establishing cantons in Lebanon. This statement was made by the Phalangist representative in Israel, Pierre Yazbik.

Speaking with our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Yazbik said that both sects must cooperate to establish a new political order in Lebanon. Yazbik also called on the Israeli Government to help Junblatt cut himself off from the Syrians and to give him guarantees.

Defection by IDF Druze Soldiers Not Noted

TA160839 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The IDF spokesman yesterday made it clear that the IDF does not know of any Druze soldiers who defected from the IDF and reached Al-Biqa'. The IDF spokesman emphasized this in reaction to a report published by *HA'ARETZ* that Druze soldiers have defected from the IDF and are currently serving with their coreligionists in Lebanon.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that several reports were published during the war according to which Druze IDF soldiers had been joining their coreligionists in Lebanon and fighting there against the Christians and the terrorists. This was confirmed by several Israeli Druze leaders who said they knew about several Druze soldiers who had gone over to fight with their coreligionists in Lebanon.

Possible New Deployment Line in Lebanon Reported

TA160547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The IDF's new deployment line in Lebanon may cross between the Az-Zahrani and Al-Litani Rivers, according to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. The new line may include the towns of An-Nabatiyah and Jazzin and the southern slope of Jabal al-Baruk. The town of Rashayya al-Wadi in the eastern sector will also remain under Israel's control and the line will pass through the southern slopes of Mt Hermon.

Our military correspondent adds that the defense establishment is increasingly optimistic about the ability of the southern Lebanese army to prevent the return of the terrorists. This would enable the pullout of most of the IDF troops from Lebanon.

Our military correspondent points out that the southern Lebanese army currently includes some 2,000 soldiers. Its expansion depends on Israel's budgetary ability because each soldier in this army receives a monthly salary of approximately 37,000 shekels from Israel.

Chief of Staff Levi on Effects of Abrogation on IDF

TA151151 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 14 Mar 84 pp 9, 10, 11, 55

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by Lieutenant Colonel Avi Lavsky and Ya'ir Ben-David on 11 March at IDF headquarters in Judaea and Samaria]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr Chief of Staff, on the eve of this interview we learned of the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in the wake of the rapprochement between Al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad. What are the implications of this development on the IDF's presence in Lebanon in the future?

Answer: Inasmuch as the process in Lebanon is concerned, we are currently at the peak of Syria's influence. Relying on all sorts of elements in Lebanon — and to a large extent also on past mistakes — the Syrians have succeeded in becoming the dominant factor in everything that is happening in Lebanon today. However, I would suggest to all of us that we not see this as the last word.

Although the Syrians are now at their peak, an analysis of all components and the deployment of forces in Lebanon shows — as it did during the meeting between Al-Asad and Al-Jumayyil which may formally symbolize the transfer of influence and domination in Lebanon to the Syrians — the buds of the problem the Syrians have been experiencing with leaders opposed to the Lebanese presidential regime and the difficulties they have been having in obtaining their consent to proceed in a positive direction. It is easier for the Syrians to arouse these elements in the opposite direction, toward fighting and palpable interim achievements. However, one must bear in mind that these achievements must later be anchored in daily life. In my opinion, we are already witnessing the difficulties the Syrians are having in reaching this.

I am not only saying this after analyzing and assessing the situation and to console myself. My approach is rather that we should not say now that Israel and the United States have nothing more to do in Lebanon, that it is a lost cause. If we embrace such an approach we might arrive at the wrong conclusion that there is no room for action in this region — and I am not necessarily referring to direct military action — and that the chances for achieving the objectives we set out for ourselves have disappeared. I do not think there are no chances left.

Question: Do you envisage a situation in which Israel and Syria would agree on mutual security arrangements in Lebanon?

Answer: I do not think one can talk today — not because this is our wish but due to circumstances — about a direct arrangement with the Syrians. However, due to the relations among the various Arab bodies, any action you take is an indirect

result of agreements. There may be arrangements whose external expression may be a Lebanese administration or local elements which may be seen as supplied by other elements which would appear not to be directly involved. [sentence as published] I do not rule this out and it seems to me that we could find wide room for action in this direction.

Question: What are the options for an IDF redeployment in Lebanon while maintaining the main goal, that of security for the northern settlements?

Answer: Securing the northern border both against terrorism and massive enemy operations is not an objective that should be declared out loud. This objective is imprinted in the IDF's missions and we must realize it. Therefore, the question we have to tackle is not how to get out of Lebanon but how to realize the security of the northern border. The desire to get out of Lebanon may be the expression of many pressures and frustrations in the wake of the war and may reflect the general mood, but it is not right as far as our basic security needs are concerned.

There are many ways to attain security in the north. In fact, we dealt with this even before the war through preemptive operations, assaults, operations beyond the border, and defensive operations. The problem is to secure the border against any eventuality in the future; a series of steps is needed to this end. The way it looks now, we cannot say for certain that within these steps we will not have to use our troops beyond the border in the short run.

Question: There has recently been talk about the possibility of an IDF deployment along a new line, that of the Az-Zahrani River. Would you comment on this possibility?

Answer: This is one of the arrangments we have been examining, in that we are saying: Let us institute a change and things will sort themselves out later. A line does not mean anything to me. What counts is the perception — which need not be another line — that would try to provide a comprehensive answer to the problem. It is now difficult to come up with such a comprehensive answer because the Lebanese side cannot fulfill the role it was entrusted with and the May agreement proves this.

Therefore, the answer must be in a larger context and not that of a line. On the face of it, it would seem that if we move to another line we would have fewer difficulties, we would have to invest fewer troops and we would perhaps suffer fewer casualties. The various security arrangements we need are not necessarily the consequence of a line along which we would deploy temporarily. Therefore, I cannot directly refer to the Az-Zahrani or any other line.

Two IDF Soldiers Slightly Wounded Near An-Nabatiyah

TA161110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were slightly wounded this morning north of An-Nabatiyah. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. An explosive charge which was planted by the side of road exploded when an IDF patrol passed by. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF forces and soldiers of the southern Lebanese army have begun searching the area.

Lebanon's Fadi Afram Sharpens Positions on Syria

TA161030 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by correspondent in Lausanne Sari Robert]

[Excerpt] Fadi Afram, the commander of the Christian military forces, last night gave an interview to the Israeli television Arabic program in which he further sharpened his positions regarding Syria. He announced that all factions of the Christian community agree with him that every military measure necessary must be adopted to safeguard the survival of the Christian community in Lebanon. Afram said that the Christians had urged him to declare a compulsory popular draft, to prepare the community for a prolonged war of attrition and to start planning the moves of the war.

Jordan Opposed To Appointing New Mayors in West Bank

TA150847 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] In indirect contacts held recently, Jordan made it plain to Israel that it is opposed to appointing new mayors in the West Bank to replace the Israeli mayors who were appointed after the deposal of the National Guidance Committee.

Jordan argued that, according to Jordanian law, municipal elections must be held 1 year after the appointment of a municipality [as published] and that it did not want to throw the West Bank into the turmoil of elections within 1 year.

Jordan would rather strengthen its influence in other sectors with an understanding that Israel would not make changes detrimental to Jordan in the municipalities.

Report on West Bankers Meeting With 'Arafat

TA140825 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The 39 West Bank Arab leaders who met with Yasir 'Arafat in Amman at the beginning of this month found the PLO chairman emerging from the nadir of his expulsion from Tripoli with renewed vigour and mounting morale, according to a reliable non-official source.

'Arafat's rebound was attributed by the West Bankers to the untarnished status he enjoys in important Arab states like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan. 'Arafat takes his rejection by Syria philosophically and does not expect anything from the present Damascus government, *THE JERUSALEM POST* was told.

These impressions, gleaned from the returning West Bankers, do not quite tally with the contentions of Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, the civilian coordinator of activities in the administered areas. On Monday, he said they had reported finding 'Arafat looking "broken and worn out."

Forty West Bank Arab dignitaries went to Amman, and despite a stern Israeli ban on seeing 'Arafat, 39 of them met with the PLO chairman in the royal guest house. The lone 40th man said he was sick that day.

'Arafat came to the meeting accompanied by his political adviser, Hani al-Hassan; his military lieutenant, Abu Jihad; his organizaiton and intelligence aide, Ibrahim al-Hassan; and the man responsible for PLO activities in the areas held by Israel, Mahmud Abu-Sittah. It was Abu-Sittah who drew up the list of the 40 men invited to meet with 'Arafat, in the course of negotiations conducted earlier by emissaries.

The West Bankers told 'Arafat that continued Israeli settlement would leave nothing left to negotiate in a year or two, if he did not give King Husayn power of attorney to negotiate in the name of the PLO.

The dignitaries sounded a blast at the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] rebels in the PLO and at breakaway leaders like George Habash, without actually naming them. Such people, they said, exploit the suffering of the Palestinians to advance their own interests.

"You can't compare the man who gets the flogging with the man who counts the number of lashes," they told 'Arafat, quoting a common Arabic proverb. "We are the ones who are being flogged, but in Damascus all they do is count the lashes."

'Arafat was pleased with this reiteration of traditional West Bank support for the mainstream PLO against the dissidents. However, he disappointed his visitors by saying he would negotiate with the king on a solution to the Palestine problem sponsored by a united Arab world. He ignored their plea to give Husayn power of attorney.

The West Bankers, discouraged by 'Arafat's slogans and generalizations, fared no better with the king, when they met with him at his palace, *THE POST* was told.

Only half a dozen of the 40 personalities were invited to meet with the king, who checked the list personally, *THE POST* was told.

Husayn replied to the West Bankers' plea to talk to Israel on their behalf by reminding them that at the Rabat Arab summit, he had warned of the consequences if he were divested of his responsibility for the West Bank. He would not deviate in the slightest from the Arab consensus, he said, dashing his guests' expectations to the ground.

(Reports reaching Jerusalem from Washington show that the king is giving American diplomats a different story about his intentions vis-a-vis the PLO and the future of the areas, and hinting that if the U.S. Administration would only wring some concessions from Israel he would come to the negotiating table. However, Israeli experts support the impression of the West Bankers from their meeting with the king and say this is not the first time that Husayn has tried to sell American diplomats a different bill of goods.)

HA'ARETZ's Margalit on U.S.- Jordan Arms Deal

TA160936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Mar 84 p 12

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Reagan's Misguided Missile"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan evinced little appreciation for the intelligence-level of his Jewish audience when he told them that the sale of U.S.- made missiles to Jordan will serve Israel's interests well. The only explanation one can find for such a clumsy statement is that it is not the first of its kind. Apparently the days when the speeches made by the man from the White House were so scrupulously reviewed in advance are long gone, so that even when the administration is made cognizant of its mistakes, it does not retract its remarks.

Reagan is not like that. Only recently he declared that the involvement in Lebanon is a "vital" U.S. interest. So after his Marines left the land of the cedars, European leaders challenged Washington: If that is so, what about the other U.S. allies in the West, who are also subject to that verbal barrage of being called "a vital U.S. interest?" Europe seems to be satisfied with the knowledge that the incumbent U.S. Administration is not very pedantic and its level of responsibility cannot be judged by its statements.

This is not to say that Reagan was caught with his pants down before his U.S. Jewish voters, who take issue with him regarding his Jordan policy. A U.S. President can always excuse himself before them by claiming that the supply of missiles to King Husayn is the lesser of all evils, and that the policy of there-is-no-choice — realizing that the Soviet alternative is constantly winking at Amman — is much more dangerous. But this is not to say that he could voice such a simplistic argument, that missiles to Jordan would serve Israel's interests.

The main weakness of Reagan's remarks is that they attest to the shallowness of their implication. No political commentator, analyst, or observer would doubt that the President's courtship of the monarch is intended to persuade Husayn to join the peace process with Israel. Reagan is nudging Jordan. The bait he hooked to the end of his line — the shoulder-held missiles — is the worst possible, precisely from the point of view of the Israelis and Americans who are seriously striving to find a territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

An energetic, enterprising U.S. Embassy should report from Tel Aviv to Washington that there are clearly-defined characteristics to the argument currently being waged in the Israeli political community. The moderates wish to ascribe a temporary, transient air to the Jewish presence in the occupied territories; whereas their opponents hope never to be cut off from Judaea and Samaria. This is a dispute over land, water, roads, and

buildings. On the other hand, throughout this convoluted, detailed argument virtually nothing has been heard in the way of disagreement on the security arrangements that would be necessary in the case of a withdrawal from the West Bank. It is precisely the confirmed doves, none but those who are prepared to withdraw nearly up to the 1967 Green Line, who constantly emphasize that the territorial concession depends on determining special long-term security arrangements. They do not want to assume the responsibility for preaching a total withdrawal unless accompanied by security agreements that will remain in effect for as long as the Arabs have not proven that they are truly seeking peace.

What are those security arrangements? The analysts from both camps understand that the answer to the concession of territory in Judaea and Samaria is aerial maneuvering space. Even avowed doves will not give up arrangements that will permit Israel to compensate itself for the loss of territory by way of aerial surveillance. This need has become somewhat comprehensible even to Syria and the other warring factions in Lebanon, and was true even a long time before the Peace for Galilee operation. It is natural, self-evident, almost a precondition, that any arrangement Reagan wishes to have must include recognition of the absolute superiority of the Israeli Air Force in the eastern front.

In that sense, the intention of selling shoulder-held missiles, of all things, to Jordan (in addition to establishing a commando force) proves that there is a long-term insensitivity. It also proves that there is no methodical thinking in the political settlement the United States wants to promote by supplying the Arabs with the means to enable them to achieve military prowess with which they could surprise Israel. Providing these means to any neighboring country — even a moderate one like Jordan — serves to buttress the hawks in Israel who contend that its continued control over Judaea and Samaria is necessary for the country's security.

The United States' wooing of Jordan is not winning over hearts in Amman. Twice Reagan's advisers have promised him that Husayn and 'Arafat would come arm-in-arm to the negotiating table, and twice this couple has shied away from such prospects. Their latest conversation last week proved — to the dismay of the moderates — that even in the skeleton anti-Syrian PLO, the extremists who refuse to recognize Israel and annul the Palestinian charter still have the upper hand. Faruq Qaddumi found out that the Arab leaders prefer him over 'Arafat because they believe he objects to any political negotiations with Israel.

'Arafat cannot let Husayn conduct political contacts alone; and both of them together are assuming that during an election year they would in any case not be able to extract anything from the United States, as all the presidential contenders will saturate their platforms with promises to Israel. Since that is so, Husayn and 'Arafat would be well-advised to assume a low profile and avoid a conflict with their counterparts in the Arab world.

Undisputed evidence of the failure of Reagan's approach and the distrust King Husayn cherishes for U.S. Middle East peace efforts in an election year could be found already yesterday. Only 24 hours after Reagan made his speech, the monarch from Amman reacted to it in an interview with the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, explaining that the United States has forfeited its status as an honest broker. He has no intention whatsoever of entering into political negotiations under its aegis this year, he said. The king must obviously be assuming that in reaction to his steadfastness and inflexibility, Washington will enlarge the basket of military offerings it is ready to make to him.

The negotiations will be put off until after the elections. Reagan will not pressure Israel with the only means that could be effective, and will not engage in a fight with Jerusalem on ceasing the settlements. Nor will he force Israel to enter into a debate along the lines of the Reagan plan. The most that could come out of the President's stratagem will not be negotiations with Jordan but a stronger Arab force in the sphere most sensitive to Israel's defense.

Bombing of Car in Gaza Causes No Casualties

TA151409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] A bomb was thrown at an Israeli car on the main street of Gaza. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces have launched an investigation. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that this is the second incident of this type that has been registered in Gaza this past week.

Kibbutz Movement Launches Golan Settlement Drive

TA141915 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1825 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Golan Heights, 14 Mar (ITIM) — The United Kibbutz Movement will wage a large-scale absorption campaign next week for the movement's kibbutzim on the Golan Heights. The campaign is to last 2 weeks and the object is to interest urban families in living on Golan Heights kibbutzim.

Anyone interested will be invited to tour the area followed by an interview at the United Kibbutz Movement offices in Tel Aviv or Haifa. Another campaign will be held in about 1 month for the upper Galilee kibbutzim.

It has been learned that a recent drop in demand for Galilee and Golan kibbutzim was noted. This prompted the decision to carry out these campaigns in a bid to fill scores of openings on the kibbutzim which are presently being filled by outside labor for lack of any other alternative.

Science Minister on Settlements, Palestinian State

PM141104 [Editorial Report] Rome *L'ESPRESSO* in Italian 4 March 1984 carries on page 32 a 700-word Massimo Loche interview with Israeli Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman. The interviewee forecasts that "in a year or two it will be physically impossible to create a Palestinian state" because "Israeli settlements and Arab villages will be so intermingled that it would take an embroiderer to trace a border." He also forecasts "an Israel of 8 million inhabitants in 20 years time." Ne'eman says he wants integration with the Arabs, "but not right

away," and, asked about the need for Israel to live in peace with its neighbors, replies: "there's time for that. I'm for minimizing conflicts, but of course we cannot risk extermination."

Poland Interested in Resuming Diplomatic Ties

TA161106 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 84 p 4

[Report from Germany by Roni Bornstein]

[Text] Poland is interested in resuming diplomatic ties with Israel, severed shortly after the 6-day war. This astounding revelation appears in the Wroclaw *GAZETA ROBOTNICZA*.

Rumors have it that Polish leader General Jaruzelski is trying to improve relations with Israel in order to secure economic privileges from the United States.

The Poles had previously engaged in a strong anti-Semitic campaign and prevented Jews from leaving Poland. Ever since martial law was imposed, the Polish media have frequently attacked Jewish leaders.

The newspaper reports that there are already contacts between Israel and Poland to commemorate writer Janos Korczak, who was killed during the holocaust. Last year the Jewish theater in Warsaw was reopened and Jewish papers currently circulate. The Polish television occasionally broadcasts Jewish religious programs.

Israelis May Visit Hungary for 3 Days Without Visas

TA141152 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 84 p 6

[Excerpt] As of April, Israelis will be able to visit in Hungary without visas. This was announced yesterday by 'Eli Weiss, the director general of the wholesale tourist agency "Tour Tevel," in an international seminar for Israeli travel agents held in Tel Aviv with the participation of 22 wholesale travel agents from 12 countries.

Weiss said that a tripartite agreement reached by the Hungarian official tourism agency ("Ibuz"), an Austrian travel agency which deals with organized tours in Hungary, and the (A.W.T.R. Israel) company states that Israelis would be allowed to visit Hungary without a visa for 3 days (2 nights).

ALGERIA

Iranian Minister Velayati's Final Talks Reported

LD141651 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, March 14, IRNA — Iran's foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently visiting Algeria, met and talked with Algerian Prime Minister Ibrahimi on Tuesday. During the visit, the Algerian prime minister invited his Iranian counterpart, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, to visit Algeria.

Meanwhile, Velayati met and talked with the head of the National Liberation Front of Algeria, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, on Tuesday. The Iranian Foreign Minister invited him to pay a visit to Iran.

In addition, Velayati met with Mohamed Salem Salek, member of the Political Bureau and head of the international relations of the Polisario Front, Tuesday. At this meeting, the Polisario official wished Iran victory in the Iraqi-imposed war and pledged the support of the Polisario Front for the just stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war. He further told Velayati that if the Polisario Front was not faced with many problems, it would have fought against the Iraqi forces in the war.

The Polisario official further said that the recent operations of the Iranian forces had created fear in the West, and that it had become immensely concerned. The question is: Why did Western countries not express such anxiety when the Iraqi regime launched its aggression against Iran, he added.

The Iranian foreign minister, commenting on the importance of relations between Iran and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, wished success for the people of Sahara. He noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran seriously and continuously supported the revolution of Muslim people of the Sahara.

Bulgarian Party Delegation Continues Visit

Talks With FLN Held

PM151502 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 84 p 3

[APS report: "Bouhara-Mikhaylov Talks]

[Text] Algiers — The political talks between the FLN Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] continued yesterday in Algiers at the headquarters of the party's Foreign Relations Department.

The talks were presided over by Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in charge of foreign relations, and Stoyan Mikhaylov, BCP Central Committee secretary in charge of ideology and head of the Bulgarian delegation.

We would recall that the BCP delegation headed by Stoyan Mikhaylov, Central Committee secretary, has been on an official visit to Algeria since 3 March 1984, at the FLN Party Central Committee's invitation, and has visited Guelma.

The delegation was received by members of the department's coordination bureau and other local representatives and officials, and was invited to a reception given by the party provincial committee. During the reception, which was attended by Bulgarian volunteer workers from the department, the secretary of the provincial committee and Stoyan Mikhaylov delivered speeches in which they cited the friendly relations that have existed between the two countries since the national liberation war.

The leaders pointed out the progress made by Algeria and Bulgaria in all fields. They noted the two countries' identical views on the topical issues, particularly the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and the efforts made to preserve and strengthen world peace.

Next, the Bulgarian delegation visited some major socioeconomic projects in the department's chief town, namely the Sonacome cycle and motorcycle factory, the Enasucre sugar refinery (resulting from the restructuring of Sogedia), and the Agricultural Implements Technology Institute. During the various visits, the guests inquired about labor organization, technological aspects and production capacities.

Meeting With Messaadia

PM151113 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9-10 Mar 84 p 1

[APS report: "Messaadia-Mikhaylov Meeting"]

[Text] Algiers — Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, had a meeting in the Zighout Youcef Palace on Thursday morning with the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation which is now on a visit to Algeria under the leadership of Mr Stoyan Mikhaylov, BCP Central Committee Secretary for Information and Ideology.

The Bulgarian delegation gave its impressions of the economic revival Algeria is experiencing, paying tribute to the country's policies in the economic sphere and in the sphere of organization and evaluation. The two delegations subsequently discussed relations between the two parties and the two countries and stressed the importance of extending direct contacts between the two parties' structures and the two countries' organizations. This audience was attended by Mr Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee and the Permanent Secretariat in charge of external relations, and Mr Chafik Laroussi, also a member of the Central Committee and Permanent Secretariat.

Moreover, it should be noted that in the morning an agreement between the FLN and BCP was signed by Mr Bouhara and Mr Mikhaylov at the end of the Bulgarian delegation's visit.

Agreement Signed

PM151600 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9-10 Mar 84 p 3

[APS report: "Signing of Agreement"]

[Excerpt] Algiers — An agreement was signed Thurday morning at the Zighout Youcef Palace between the FLN and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP].

The document was initialed for the Algerian side by Mr Abderrezak Bouhara, member of the FLN Central Committee and member of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, and for the Bulgarian side by Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee for ideology, in the presence of the members of the two delegations.

At the end of the signing ceremony, the Bulgarian delegation chief expressed to APS his satisfaction with his visit to Algeria at the FLN's invitation. "Broad possibilities in the cooperation sphere exist between our two countries, and we will do our best to act on them in accordance with the lines laid down by President Todor Zhivkov and President Chadli Bendjedid," Mr Mikhaylov stressed.

Giving his impressions of his visit to Algeria, the Bulgarian delegation chief stated that great efforts have been made by the Algerian people, who are constantly consolidating their economic, social and cultural independence. "I can honestly say that we are going back to Bulgaria with the memory of a country which is progressing and constantly improving under its president's leadership."

During its visit to Algeria, the Bulgarian delegation inspected various economic and social achievements in several regions of the country.

Finnish Prime Minister Sorsa Concludes Visit

Meets With President Bendjedid

LD152041 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Summary] Premier Kalevi Sorsa described his talks in Algeria as extremely useful, interesting and extensive following his meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this morning. The president holds a centrist position in both foreign and domestic policy. The attention paid to Finland is demonstrated by the fact that the visit with Bendjedid was not limited merely to an exchange of appropriate courtesies, but lasted about 1 hour.

During the meeting, President Bendjedid said that he had familiarized himself in detail with the talks that the prime ministers and the delegations had held these past 2 days. He said that he planned personally to promote the development of Algerian-Finnish relations, particularly trade relations. The exchange of views, which took place in the presidential study, also dealt extensively with the stance and aims of the nonaligned countries. Algeria is one of the leading forces in the group, and evidently its views are of interest to the government of neutral Finland.

The burning issue of the war between Iran and Iraq was also discussed. As far as is known, the Algerian president indicated to his guest that he refrained from taking a definite stance in the conflict, thus preserving the position of neutral observer. When possible mediation talks began, Algeria was prepared to offer its good services to the parties involved in the bloody war, which has frightening consequences.

President Chadli Bendjedid also accepted an invitation to pay a state visit to Finland at a date to be agreed upon later." It is evident that cooperation with a neutral industrial country like Finland suits the government's policy in its aims to extend relations with the West while preserving its nonalignment.

Here at home, Prime Minister Sorsa's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunisia and the protest it brought from Israel has perhaps overshadowed the visit. In justifying the meeting, one should perhaps stress that Tunisia and Algeria both regard 'Arafat as the indisputable leader of the Palestinian people — with the PLO as their legal representative — though the real political significance of both has in the last few months suffered a serious setback. If the Finnish premier had refused to meet 'Arafat in Tunis, it could have been interpreted as a criticism of the policy of the governments of the host countries.

The central position of the liberation movements in the Algerians' thinking is probably illustrated by the observation made in the local media about the meetings between Secretary of State Matti Tuovinen and representatives of the Polisario guerrilla organization. Since the Polisario representatives were not the leaders of the movement, the prime minister himself did not get into a difficult situation deciding whether he should receive them himself, in person, or not.

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Issues Statement, Departs

LD152012 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The ground has been prepared for Algerian-Finnish cooperation on the occasion of the visit by the Finnish prime minister to Algeria; the prospects are very promising. Prime Minister Sorsa said the following to the press this afternoon as he was leaving Algiers:

[Begin recording] (?The talks) with the prime minister [words indistinct], naturally the international situation. I appreciated very much the Algerian stand on many issues, but in particular the Algerian view on the development of the Nonaligned Movement outlined today by President Chadli Bendjedid. We examined issues pertaining to the Middle East, the Western Sahara — a whole series of important issues — and I was given much information which will be useful to me in my own country (?to help formulate our own policy for our people).

(?More generally), the views of Algeria and Finland converge on a number of important issues of international politics, but naturally most of the time was spent studying the possibilities of cooperation between our two countries, and I think that (?today) we found very good possibilities for exploiting [word indistinct].

This exploitation will begin with a meeting of our mixed committee on economic, technological, scientific and industrial cooperation to be held in Algiers this fall. Before this, there will also be an exploratory mission to study these possibilities in detail. [end recording]

Mr Sorsa left Algiers this afternoon. This morning he had been received by President Bendjedid.

Briefs

APS-DPRK Agency Sign Agreement — Algiers 15/03 (APS) — An accord of cooperation was signed yesterday between the national information agency (APS) and the Central Telegraphic Agency of Korea (ATCC) in Algiers. The accord was signed for the APS by Mr Mohamed Merzoug, general director, and by Mr Song Bon Su, ATCC deputy general director. The signing ceremony for this accord, which renews the accord of 1 June 1965, aims at the reinforcement of cooperation relations between the two agencies and for the establishment of a new world order of information. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 15 Mar 84 LD]

LIBYA

AL-AHALI Interviews Chief of Staff Yunis

PM151616 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Mar 84 p 7

[Interview with "Chief of Staff" Abu Bakr Yunis, by 'Aydah al-'Azab Musa in Tripoli — date not given]

[Text] It was, of course, imperative that we begin the interview with a question on Chad, the most important African issue as far as Libya is concerned. I asked him about the claim that the Libyan forces moved 100 km northward after the downing of a French aircraft by the forces of Goukouni Oueddei. I also asked about the French foreign minister's visit to Libya and whether there is some kind of partition in Chad.

Yunis: The French forces did not advance even 1 meter. In view of the difficulties their forces are facing in Chad, the threat of death to the French soldiers and the possible reaction in France itself, the French have come up with the idea of a third alternative; that is, having a third person substitute for Habre and Oueddei. The Libyan masses approve of this idea, provided it results in the withdrawal of the French forces from Chad. As for Cheysson's visit, he did not bring ready-made solutions or even specific proposals. We reject any French intervention, but if the OAU achieves a solution we will accept it.

AL-AHALI: Will Libya attend the forthcoming African summit in Guinea?

Yunis: The question of Libya's attendance at the African summit is premature.

AL-AHALI: There are signs of relaxation in Libyan-French relations.

Yunis: On the contrary, the situation is frozen. In fact, there is a scaling down at present, but relations, especially trade relations, could improve if France solves the problems of Chad and Lebanon. If France manages to find solutions for these two problems, normal Libyan-French relations will be restored.

AL-AHALI: What is Libya's attitude toward the Eritrean revolution? Is Eritrea not an Arab country?

Yunis: First of all, the question of Eritrea's Arabism has not been resolved yet. Is it African or Arab, Christian or Muslim? Anyway, apart from all that, we supported the Eritrean revolution when it was a national liberation movement, but when that revolution established suspect relations the cards got mixed up. Who are the revolutionaries and who are the reactionaries? We have not had any links with them for the past 3 years, but we are willing to build bridges with them if free leadership takesover from the reactionary forces now controlling the Eritrean arena. If genuine revolutionary forces emerge, we would be willing to contact them and play a political role between them and the Eritrean command.

AL-AHALI: Would that not cause a conflict between you and Eritrea [as published]?

Yunis: Revolutionary forces unite everywhere. At any rate, we have other urgent problems and issues so we do not attach much importance to Eritrea.

AL-AHALI: Why is Libya accused of being a troublemaker?

Yunis: Our slogan is: Africa for the Africans. It is not true that we are troublemakers. Libya has supported and continues to support all African liberation movements. We contribute to the economies of many African countries. We have joint investment companies and establishments, and we have given many loans. Despite the economic blockade against it, Libya has done its duty.

AL-AHALI: What is your position on the Sahara question?

Yunis: We have dissociated ourselves from the Sahara issue since the OAU sponsored it. The Polisario began as a revolutionary explosion in the Arab arena against the Moroccan regime. That is how it was at the beginning. It began as a progressive front against reactionism and that is why Libya helped it. But when the OAU sponsored the cause we left it alone.

AL-AHALI: How does Libya feel about the Greater Maghreb plan?

Yunis: If the plan is meant to be the beginning of comprehensive Arab unity, then we are for it, but if it is meant to divide the Arab nation, then we are against it. We are against all isolationist entities. Anyway, it all depends on the circumstances. The real unity to be sought is the unity of Libya, Egypt and Sudan, but we leave that to the Arab masses.

AL-AHALI: Many African and Arab states are hostile to Libya. Does this not make it necessary for Libya to reconsider its policies and attitudes?

Yunis: Most of these states are weak states, and that is why they disagree with Libya. We do not interfere in the domestic affairs of any state, but the Palestine cause is a central cause. Take Tunisia, for example. We have no problems with it, but we are concerned about one issue, which is the presence of military bases there. We are against U.S. military bases in any part of the Arab homeland because the United States is our enemy. We are not unjustly antagonistic, but there is a red line which we cannot cross.

Algerian-Libyan relations are good because the fighters who carried out the Algerian revolution are still there.

We consider Egypt to be our citadel, but the shock was severe and unexpected and so were the reactions. All the Arabs, whether through their own free will or under the influence of foreign forces, contributed to what has become of Egypt. Our decisions after Camp David were adequate.

MAURITANIA

Radio Condemns Rumormongers' 'Treachery'

LD151600 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Though its methods change day by day, the campaign of arousing confusion continues with its objectives unchanged: to sow the seeds of suspicion, shake confidence and detract from the established institutions by attacking leading figures.

This feverish psychological campaign has been joined by a number of people who are experienced in this field and who try through their activities to arouse a collective reaction from the masses or from a force capable of toppling the existing institutions.

We have in our possession a collection of evidence which leads us to believe that some of these confusion-mongers have chosen our country as test ground for their subversive experiments. They have already embarked on their treachery, and their actions are now there for everyone to see. Thus, the treacherous liars' fantasies have resulted in spreading rumors and constantly fanning them.

Yesterday, rumors were spread to the effect that a racial confrontation was about to take place. In a flagrant act of deception, these rumormongers affirmed that they have read leaflets fixing a time and date for this fabricated sedition. These people never hesitate to speak of racial skirmishes having taken place in internal areas. These people were not deterred by the disgust and indifference with which our proud people received their biased rumors.

In their sinister designs, these people have hit a new field. They attempted to distort the simple matter of a deal concluded between a local bank and one of its customers within the framework of the law on the settlement of bank loans adopted by the Military Committee for National Salvation as one of the national priorities. Despite the legitimate character of the deal, the rumormongers tried to turn it into a political scandal. But we will not demean ourselves by replying to what was said about this matter.

The saboteurs exploited the Mauritanian decision to recognize the SDAR as another device for the spreading of new rumors. They fabricated reports about what they called a rift within the ranks of our national leadership. Today, these people have been spreading rumors about the recent Cabinet reshuffle and the transfers that took place within the armed forces in order to bolster these forces and thereby foil and abort any subversive designs.

To give a semblance of credence to the statements made by their internal agents and to distort Mauritania's image abroad, the perpetrators of such acts did not hesitate to exploit foreign papers, flooding them with false information about the situation in Mauritania, which according to them is fraught with corruption, bribery and the squandering of money. Thus, wittingly or unwittingly, some of these papers have fallen into the trap of those who dream about shaking the foundation of the current regime in Mauritania.

But it is clear and evident, as evidenced by the international aid agencies, that Mauritania is one of the countries that has been afflicted by the drought, and has been exerting superhuman efforts to overcome the effects of it. So far, these efforts have succeeded in preventing any worsening of the situation: the spreading of famine, disease and epidemic which now afflict a number of Third World countries today, including even those countries that have not been afflicted by drought.

No one can deny that the strict measures adopted by the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government have helped to maintain our national currency's stability and strength, despite the financial storms and economic crises which have been shaking today's world. Facts and truths are the last thing the rumormongers care about because their only concern is to distort matters to achieve their ends.

These people have now resorted to their agents, entrusting them with the task of arousing anarchy in the streets through the use of adolescents. Thus, combat groups [majmu'at sidamiyah], which are often foreign to educational institutions, try to paralyze schools, thereby forcing the students into the streets. But these acts are too obvious for the students to be taken in by them. The majority of these students have refused to turn themselves into tools for the spreading of confusion. Likewise, the slogans of vocational character which the troublemakers have been uttering, are nothing but smokescreens which will deceive no one.

In the face of this reply from the students, the troublemakers had no alternative but to expose themselves, and this brought catastrophe to them. For the Mauritanians who agreed to be mobilized as mercenaries will inevitably receive the punishment due them. As to their masters and the planners of their actions, they will realize when it is too late that Mauritania is not that poor and vulnerable country they imagine it to be.

The Mauritanian people and their leadership, which they have

chosen for themselves, are determined to safeguard their independence, sovereignty and unity, as well as their freedom of choice. No force in the world, however mighty and whatever its calculations and tactics, can turn Mauritania into a lackey for it, or force it to submit to its will and strategic dreams.

In the face of these campaigns, it is the duty of all Mauritanians to realize the nature of the ambitions that some of the countries in the area have for our country. We must stand united like one man to check the attempts of our enemies, however devious their methods become. It is our duty to support our armed forces in their efforts to safeguard the country's internal and external security.

MOROCCO

Saudi Crown Prince Concludes Visit 14 Mar

LD151336 Rabat MAP in English 1258 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Casablanca, Mar 15 (MAP) — Amir 'Abdallah ibn Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, vice-president of the Ministers Council and chief of the Saudi National Guard, left here Wednesday after a visit to Morocco.

He was seen off by Morocco's heir apparent, Sidi Mohammed, and several Cabinet members.

SUDAN

Unidentified Bomber Raids Omdurman 16 Mar

SUNA Reports Bombing

JN161437 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA) — An unidentified bomber coming from the southwest raided the city of Omdurman this morning and dropped five bombs. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1405 GMT on 16 March identifies the aircraft as a Russian-made Tupolev Tu-22]. The raid resulted in hitting an administrative building of the Sudanese radio station and inflicting damage on two houses and two vehicles in the Reviera park area. The plane fled in a northwestern direction.

The General Command of the People's Armed Forces issued the following statement on this hostile incident:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate:
At 1100 this morning, an unidentified Russian-made bomber coming from a southwestern direction parallel to the Nile raided the city of Omdurman. The plane dropped five bombs, hitting two houses and two cars in the Reviera area. Another bomb hit an administrative building belonging to the radio station. Some citizens also received slight injuries and were given immediate treatment. The bomber fled in a northwestern direction.

The General Command of the People's Armed Forces affirms that all our air and ground units have been placed on alert to repulse any aggression against the homeland. The Sudanese air space has also been secured against possible aggression.

Numayri Inspects Bombing Site

JN161509 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1457 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA) — At 1400 today, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri inspected the Omdurman radio station building in the wake of the raid carried out this morning by an unidentified Soviet-made aircraft.

The president also visited the civilian targets that were hit by the aircraft's bombs. The raid injured several citizens and damaged two houses, two vehicles and an administrative building belonging to the radio station.

Several state officials hastened to the scene of the incident and inspected the results of the criminal aggression.

Government Statements Condemn Raid

JN161459 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Mar (SUNA) — The Khartoum district commissioner's office today issued a statement condemning the treacherous attack on the city of Omdurman this morning by an unidentified aircraft. The statement stresses that the masses of the nation's capital are aware of the size of the plots being concocted against the homeland and that these masses stand behind their leadership to protect the homeland against any likely aggression.

The SSU Secretariat in the northern Khartoum district also issued a statement condemning the criminal aggression and emphasizing their stand against any aggression aimed at the homeland and the revolution.

Youth Union Denounces 'Aggression'

EA161540 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Sudan Youth Union, Omdurman Area, has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, creator of man and giver of liberties, and in the name of Omdurman's youth, represented by their great union — the Sudan Youth Union — we condemn and denounce the wicked aggression against the city of Omdurman. We affirm our stand with and support for the heroic struggling leader, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, the victorious — God willing. We also affirm our adherence to our revoluton and its principles.

We firmly resolve to reply to the forces of treason and agentry with greater violence than they contemplate. God is the greatest!

[Signed] The Sudan Youth Union, Omdurman area

At-Tayyib Returns From Saudi Arabia Visit
JN151314 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — Sudanese First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib returned home yesterday after a 4-day working visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia.

SOMALIA

Opposition Leaders Interviewed by Syria's AL-BA'TH

PM151343 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 9 Mar 84 p 8

[Interview with Somali Democratic Salvation Front delegation consisting of: Vice Chairman and Executive Committee Member 'Umar Hasan Mahmud; Executive Committee Member and Head of Foreign Relations Department Dr Hasan 'Ali Murrah; Executive Committee Member and Political Adviser Sa'id Jami' Husayn; Executive Committee Member 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ahmad 'Ali; 'Abdallah Farih Majan, a local Popular Forces leader; and SDSF Representative in Damascus Yasin Muhammad Yusuf by 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kafri in Damascus — date not specified]

[Excerpts] *AL-BA'TH*: What is the purpose of your visit to Damascus and what is the extent of cooperation between the Somali Democratic Salvation Front [SDSF] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party?

Comrade 'Umar Mahmud: The SDSF has always exchanged visits with the Syrian Arab Region, and therefore we are here at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

As you are aware, the SDSF is fighting a historic battle for the liberation of Somalia from the dictatorial Mogadishu regime. It is necessary that we exchange views and consultations with our brothers and comrades in the Ba'th Party National Command.

Our meetings with our brothers in the Ba'th leadership have become a tradition of struggle in the course of our militant activity in the SDSF, particularly since we, like others, realize the great role the Ba'th Party plays in leading the Arab national liberation movement. We also realize the magnitude of the national tasks that the Ba'th revolution is undertaking in Damascus.

Our current visit to Damascus stems from this principle. It is one of the SDSF's principles — according to a recent Executive Committee meeting which endorsed a comprehensive struggle strategy — to strengthen our ties with the brothers in Syria and the rest of the progressive Arab countries. We need to exchange views, expertise, and assistance. This is required by our battle against Siad Barre. It is also required that we move on all fronts.

We must place on record our brothers' help for us and the help from the sisterly and friendly states. We must with appreciation place on record sisterly Syria's distinctive, important, and sincere stand on the side of just struggle. This national role is not something new, for the Syrian people have always stood with all their capabilities on the side of their brothers in Somalia.

AL-BA'TH: Where does the SDSF stand in relation to the Arab liberation movement and the goals it is striving to achieve through armed struggle?

Comrade Dr Hasan Murrah: The SDSF is a political front organization committed to toppling the dictatorial regime. It has become an established fact in Somalia's political life, thereby achieving the biggest gain for the national forces' struggle. In the course of its struggle the SDSF has expressed the aspirations of the Somali people with all their social factions — workers, peasants, shepherds, progressive intelligentsia, artisans, and small earners.

In its armed struggle the SDSF considers itself an integral part of the Arab liberation movement and an effective faction in the national liberation march.

AL-BA'TH: During the period between the SDSF constitutent conference and the recent Central Committee conference certain new militant aspects of the front's struggle, if not certain qualitative changes in its militant march, have emerged. What is your comment?

Comrade Sa'id Husayn: More than 6 years have passed since the launching of the front and its armed struggle. The front has reached a degree of strength that has enabled our popular forces to be in control of large areas of Somalia, which has won it increasing support from the masses.

The fact is that this development is the result of a natural progression of the conditions involving the front. The victories we have scored, the increasing popular support for the front, the isolation of the regime, and the developments in our march have brought about this change in the situation with regard to stepping up military blows to the regime and the U.S. military bases in Somalia. This also enables us to plan for the future after we achieve victory for our progressive, national, and liberated Somalia, strengthening our strategic ties with all the world progress and liberation forces and the Arab, African and socialist forces. There is also the need to unify all the Somali national opposition forces. All this and other things we decided upon at the Central Committee meeting represent a qualitative step.

AL-BA'TH: It is observed that the Somali regime and the Western media constantly try to depict the actions of the front's forces as being a war between the Mogadishu regime and external forces. What is your comment?

Comrade 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Ali: The aim of these attempts is to conceal the role of our people, whom the front represents. The regime realizes that such false allegations may save its neck by internationalizing the question of the conflict between the Somali people represented by the SDSF and the Somali National Movement [SNM] and their enemies. Another objective is to create a problem called the situation in the Horn of Africa so as to justify the regime's treachery of allying itself with the United States and with the reactionary regimes that toe its line. But such allegations will not fool our people, for they realize their aims and objectives. With such allegations the regime is concealing the facts of our people's struggle and sweeping revolution. It will not be able to falsify the facts and will fail in its attempt to curb the front's strength and effectiveness.

AL-BA'TH: How do you view the persistent U.S. conspiratorial efforts to enable Israel's return to the African Continent, and what are the risks involved in such an Israeli infiltration?

Comrade Dr Hasan Murrah: As you are aware, the OAU decided to break off all diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity after the 1967 war. The African peoples and their governments have adopted this honorable stand and made the "restoration of relations" conditional upon removal of the effects of aggression and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The Arab regimes and their liberation forces should have appreciated this African stand and given assistance. But there is no doubt that the failure of Arab governments has encouraged some African countries to restore their relations with the Zionist entity. This was also encouraged by the fact that the Egyptian regime under As-Sadat established relations with Israel.

We in the SDSF urge all the Arab national and progressive forces to shoulder their responsibilities. The Israeli infiltration of Africa will involve great risks for the Arab cause and the African peoples.

AL-BA'TH: Despite the attempts by the Somali regime's organs to black out news of successful military operations by the front's forces, recently news agencies widely reported a military operation in Hargeisa, northern Somalia. What do you say about this?

Comrade 'Abdallah Majan: The escalation of our present military struggle against the Somali regime is purely an internal matter. The attempt to give an international character to what is happening in Somalia is unjustifiable. The attempt to black out news of our military forces' activities will be to no avail. The regime suffered successive defeats and showed impotence and total failure in the face of blows inflicted on it by the front's forces.

Comrade Yasin Muhammad: The front's forces are increasing, particularly since they have been joined by large numbers of the regime's forces with their arms. Our forces' morale is very high,and their standard of preparedness is high and constant. During the 6 years of armed struggle the Mogadishu regime's forces have not once been able to defeat us in battle. All the world knows that we have liberated large and important areas of Somalia.

The regime, after mobilizing its forces and adding to them military aid from the United States, Egypt, and Pakistan, tried to retake the liberated areas and suffered a major defeat. In response to this the front's forces recently launched successful operations. One example is the battle of Matabaan and the operation in (Qara' Jum'ah), which is not far from Mogadishu.

AL-BA'TH: How far has the dialogue between you and the SNM [Somali National Movement] progressed?

Comrade Dr Hasan Murrah: Our people's struggle in Somalia has entered its final stages since the front that leads this struggle has recently succeeded in escalating its activities and expanding the scope of its operations on the internal front, particularly with regard to enlighening and mobilizing the masses through exposing the identity of the regime, its antinational policy, its reliance on the tribal system, its divide and rule policy, and its role as one of the mainstays of U.S. imperialism in the Horn of Africa.

The isolation of the regime in addition to the present chaos and corruption in the country have added to the social and economic difficulties. All this has compelled us to escalate our military operations. For this reason we decided at the recent meeting of the front to resort to all the military and political means to topple this regime, mobilize all the forces against it, and concentrate on armed struggle as the effective means to achieve victory. It has also been decided to continue dialogue with the SNM in order to ensure the establishment of a united Somali opposition front as quickly as possible.

We realize that failure to achieve unity between the SDSF and the SNM forces will aid the continuation of the present regime.

The SDSF's talks with the SNM are continuing, and several meetings have been held so far. For your information, for some time the SDSF and the SNM have had a joint cooperation agreement that organizes military, political, and information activities. On 20 March important talks will be held to achieve unity between the SDSF and the SNM. The talks will be headed by the SDSF chairman and the SNM chairman. There is great hope that this great step will be achieved, for it will be one of the decisive factors in achieving victory and liberation.

AL-BA'TH: How serious are the economic and social difficulties caused by the drought from which the brotherly Somali people are suffering?

Comrade Yasin Muhammad: The human tragedy from which our people are suffering is evident in most Somali areas, where drought has affected man, land, and animal. Large numbers of our people have fallen victim to hunger, thirst, sickness, and poverty. We have lost more than 11 million head of sheep, cow, and camel. Despite the prolonged drought, the regime made no move to alleviate the disaster. All it did was to exploit the international gifts and donations and invest them in its own interests and the interests of its clique. Our people received only little of such assistance. For this reason the front had to move. It is not possible to differentiate between the problems from which our people are suffering, because they are all the result of the same circumstances which are created by the corruption of the regime's antinational institutions.

The remedy to this problem lies in toppling this regime and its institutions.

GABON

Bongo Appeals to OAU Members To Resolve Differences

AB151700 Paris AFP in French 1315 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Libreville, 15 Mar (AFP) — Gabonese President Omar Bongo made an appeal on Wednesday to all his African peers, asking them to do all in their power to save the OAU from its current situation. At a press conference, President Bongo regretted in particular that many states have not payed their dues for a long time, thereby condemning the continental organization to a sure death.

Defining Gabon's position on Western Sahara within the framework of the 20th OAU summit scheduled to take place in Conakry this year, the head of state denounced the procedure that led to SDAR's admission into the OAU and reaffirmed his attachment to the OAU resolutions, notably on the establishment of a cease-fire and on the organization of a referendum for self-determination. However, he expressed his serious reservations on the immediate holding of [words indistinct] since the OAU never discussed [words indistinct] its organization nor determined the conditions for the establishment of the cease-fire.

President Bongo warned against the use of the Saharan crisis to sabotage the summit scheduled for Conakry and immediately called on the ad hoc committee on Western Sahara to convene quickly in order to fix new dates for the cease-fire and the referendum which should have been held before 31 December.

On Chad, President Bongo requested the departure of foreign forces (especially Libyans) from the Chadian territory and hoped that the Chadians themselves would find the solution to the crisis by overcoming their "unfortunately too many" ethnic differences. He reiterated his support for Chadian President Hissein Habre and expressed his happiness over the recent contacts established between representatives of Hissein Habre's Northern Armed Forces (FAN), and the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of Goukouni Oueddei.

Finally, questioned on the "concerted and progressive liberalism" practiced by Gabon, President Bongo said that the policy was to permit the upsurge of a new class of Gabonese businessmen and to involve the nationals in the running and operation of business companies being established in the country.

CHAD

OLTIF Claims Responsibility for Two Attacks

AB152059 Paris AFP in French 1901 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, 15 Mar (AFP) — The Organization for the Liberation of Chad from Imperialism and Fascism (OLTIF) has claimed responsibility for two attacks carried out in Chad on 9 February and 11 March 1984. According to a communique received in Lagos on Tuesday, three fighters of Mr Habre's FAN and two men from the Zairian forces were killed on 9 February at 2000 local time in [words indistinct] Mandelia on the Guelen-Ndjamena road in an ambush laid by the OLTIF fighters.

On 11 March at Kournari, a village located along the same road, six FAN soldiers were killed in a similar ambush during which a truck was burned, and a SIG rifle was abandoned by the government troops.

The two communiques were signed by Tahir Said, the movement's secretary general, and datelined Mandelia, southern Chad. The bearer of the communique, who stated that he was not an OLTIF member, believed, however, that the organization was not responsible for the attack perpetrated last week against a UTA airliner.

This was the fifth OLTIF communique since October 1983. The movement had already claimed responsibility for half a dozen attacks against the Zairian troops and the FAN. That organization claimed responsibility for the attack on the Zairian Embassy in Ndjamena, which reportedly caused three deaths on 28 November 1983.

CONGO

Portugal's Eanes Greeted by Sassou-Nguesso

AB152020 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Brazzaville, March 15 (AFP) — Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes arrived here today for a three-day official visit to Congo. General Eanes, who arrived from a visit to Zaire, was greeted by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and party and government officials. During his stay he will visit Congo's economic capital of Pointe Noire. The local press said the two heads of state would assess their countries' cooperation. The balance of trade between Congo and Portugal, which is not covered by any particular agreement, is in the African state's favour.

Further Details

LD151857 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] President Ramalho Eanes arrived in Brazzaville this afternoon on a 48-hour official visit to the People's Republic of the Congo, the last leg of his African tour. President Eanes is now meeting his Congolese opposite number, Sassou-Nguesso, and will then meet with the Portuguese community in Brazzaville. In Zaire, a joint communique signed by the Portuguese and Zairean presidents stresses the identity of views concerning most of the issues touched upon in Kinshasa and the two sides' total willingness to continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

GHANA

PNDC Secretarial Changes Announced 15 March

AB151850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has made changes in the portfolios of secretaries of state. Dr Charles Buadu becomes the secretary for the Ministry of Industries, Science, and Technology; Mr E.G. Tanoh takes over the Ministry of Health.

The following appointments have been confirmed with immediate effect: Mr Ato Ahwoi becomes the PNDC secretary for trade; the PNDC secretary for Eastern Region is Mr D.O. Agyekum.

Appointment of deputy secretaries: Dr Mohamed Ben Abdallah, deputy secretary, culture and tourism; Mr Sam Nelson, deputy secretary youth and sports.

The following secretaries have been relieved of their posts and are to revert to their former appointments prior to their secondment to serve in government: Professor Mawuse Dake, Dr Asamoah-Tutu, and Dr George Opoku.

The secretary for People's Defense Committees and Workers Defense Committees, Mr Yaw Akrasi, is to act as secretary to the National Defense Committee.

GUINEA

Soldiers Reportedly Kill Two Sierra Leone Fishermen

AB151512 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Freetown, March 15 [AFP] — Two Sierra Leonean fishermen were shot dead and others taken prisoner by Guinean soldiers on the border between the two countries, the newspaper *FLASH* reported here today.

FLASH said the two men were fishing off the island of Yel Boya when patrolling Guinean soldiers opened fire on them. The soldiers also seized their canoes and were holding other Sierra Leoneans in Guinea, the report said.

"This latest shooting is the third in a series of wanton acts of aggression by the Guinean border patrols in recent months," said *FLASH*, which gave no date for any of the incidents.

Yel Boya is one of Sierra Leone's tourist islands and famous for its fishing industry. It is in the Samu chiefdom, Kambia District, where Guinean soldiers have recently been trying to stop Guinean refugees and smugglers entering Sierra Leone.

According to reliable sources, the Guinean authorities also gave the military the go-ahead for the operation because "tax defaulters and evaders" were fleeing into Sierra Leone rather than pay dues in farm products.

Travellers arriving here say that Guineans, accustomed to paying taxes in cash and per house or hut, were not obliged to pay so much per person in agricultural produce.

Leonean First Vice-President Ibrahim Korama and Internal Affairs Minister Sama Banya went to the Guinean capital Conakry some two weeks ago to discuss the matter, but no official statement has yet been made on those talks.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Saude Maria Takes Refuge in Portuguese Embassy

Requests Asylum From Portugal

LD151637 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] RDP1 [Lisbon Radio] learned from government sources in Lisbon this afternoon that Victor Saude Maria, prime minister of Guinea-Bissau dismissed from the post last Saturday, has taken refuge in the Portuguese Embassy in Bissau and is requesting political asylum from Libson authorities.

A few minutes ago a spokesman of the Portuguese Foreign Ministry in Lisbon confirmed that in fact Victor Saude Maria is right now in our Bissau embassy, but he said the Foreign Ministry has no knowledge about the dismissed Guinea-Bissau prime minister's request for political asylum.

Portuguese Confirm Refuge Granted

LD161051 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Portuguese Government has now intimated to Guinea-Bissau authorities that it has granted refuge to former Guinea-Bissau Premier Victor Saude Maria in Portugal's Embassy in Bissau. The embassy will now conduct the usual demarches in such cases.

Victor Saude Maria is the second prime minister of a former Portuguese colony to seek refuge in a Portuguese diplomatic mission. Miguel Trovoada, a former prime minister of Sao Tome and Principe, was the first such leader from a former Portuguese colony to take refuge in Portugal's Embassy in the island republic. On 25 September 1979, he unsuccessfully sought political asylum.

However, the two cases cannot yet be regarded as identical. The Portuguese Foreign Ministry in Lisbon has only disclosed that the former Guinea-Bissau premier has taken refuge in our embassy in Bissau without confirming whether or not Saude Maria has also sought political asylum.

In Bissau, the street where the Portuguese Embassy is located is currently under discreet surveillance by government troops. The ANOP news agency reports that soldiers were deployed in and around the area soon after midnight, which the agency said was not normal.

President Bernardo Vieira, who is currently touring the eastern part of the country, has disclosed that when the former prime minister visited the Bue area 10 February, Saude Maria took the opportunity to enlist local leaders' support for his plot to overthrow the head of state. Vieira said that when confronted by him, Saude Maria admitted to the conspiracy saying that he acted rashly.

IVORY COAST

Four Aid Agreements Signed With France

AB152135 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Ivorian and French authorities are striving to invigorate cooperation between Abidjan and Paris. The French cooperation and development minister, who arrived in Abidjan yesterday, began talks with Ivorian authorities this morning. Christian Nucci was first received by Foreign Minister Simeon Ake. Soon afterward he held talks with the minister of agriculture, water, and forestry resources, and with the ministers of rural development and economy and finance.

The meeting with Minister Abdoulaye Kone was marked by the signing of four FAC [expansion unknown] grants. According to the terms of these grants, France will help the Ivory Coast carry out a number of scientific projects. These grants, which amount to 292 million CFA francs, will enable the Ivorian Ministry of Scientific Research to equip a number of institutes specializing in food research — specifically: the Tropical Institute of Environmental Protection, the Center of Oceanographic Research, the Institute of Oils and Oilseeds Research, the Savannah Institute, and so on.

After the four grant agreements had been signed, Minister Abdoulaye Kone thanked France for the help it is giving Ivory Coast, especially during these hard times.

NIGERIA

Buhari Receives Former Military Head of State

AB151357 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, 15 Mar [AFP] — Nigerian Head of State General Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday evening received General Olusegun Obasanjo, the last Nigerian military head of state, and General Musa Yar'Adua, the "second in command" of the last military administration, it was learned from an official source in Lagos.

The two generals, who retired from the army at the time of the handing over of power to Shehu Shagari's civilian regime in October 1979, are now living on farms — Mr Obasanjo at Ota in the southwestern part of the country, and Mr Yar'Adua in Kaduna in the north. A few days after his seizure of power on 31 December last year, Gen Buhari affirmed that his government was a descendant of the former Nigerian military regimes, it was recalled.

According to observers, the former general, Yar'Adua, continues to wield very great influence with the military men now in power in Nigeria.

Questioned about the motives for these visits, the spokesman of the presidency, Wada Maida, simply indicated that Gen Obasanjo insisted on meeting with the new head of state. Nothing [words indistinct] by Gen Buhari to Gen Yar'Adua.

Borno Administrator Warns on Religious Strife

AB160800 Lagos NAN in English 0748 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Fika [Borno], Mar 15 [NAN] — The sole administrator for Fika local government area of Borno, Alhaji Mustafa Mallambe, has said that traditional rulers would be held responsible for any outbreak of religious disturbances in their areas.

Alhaji Mustafa, who was on a familiarization tour of some parts of the local government, called on traditional rulers to report to the police the presence of strangers or people suspected to be religious fanatics.

The statement followed a series of religious disturbances, particularly at the government girls secondary school [words indistinct] in which about 32 students were injured.

Maiduguri Market Destroyed by Fire 15 March

AB152015 Paris AFP in French 1856 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, 15 Mar [AFP] — The market in Maiduguri (extreme north-eastern corner of Nigeria) near Lake Chad was completely destroyed by fire this morning and several people died in the blaze, an eye witness who arrived in Lagos this afternoon asserted.

According to the witness, the fire broke out at 0400 GMT this morning, and the flames continued blazing until after 0800 GMT. He also said that law enforcement agents completely encircled the market in order to prevent the fire from claiming new victims from among the traders who were trying to save their wares which were being consumed by the fire. Several commodities, notably gas and oil, are kept in the market every night, the witness added.

Fifteen days ago the market in Jimeta, 500 km south of Maiduguri, was totally destroyed by fire during clashes between religious fanatics and the police force in the township of Yola.

SENEGAL

Diouf Departs For Working Visit to Cape Verde

AB151516 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the republic, Abdou Diouf, left Dakar this morning at 1000 for a few hours' working visit to Cape Verde. The head of state was accompanied by a delegation including Moustapha Niasse, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs,

and Mamadou Laity Ndiaye, Senegal's ambassador to Praia. His return is scheduled for 1700 this afternoon.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Receives Message From Kampuchean Leader

AB151754 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, this morning received His Excellency Hor Nam Hong, ambassador of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to Moscow, who gave him a message from the chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. His Excellency Nam Hong explained the aim of his visit to Captain Sankara and spoke of the current situation in the People's Republic of Kampuchea in an interview with our reporter Aboubacar Dembele.

[Begin Hong recording] I am here to deliver a message from our chairman of the Council of State to His Excellency President Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and head of /tate of the Republic of Upper Volta. I am also here to inform His Excellency President Thomas Sankara of developments in the people's Republic of Kampuchea and the current situation in Southeast Asia.

Our mission to the Republic of Upper Volta falls within the framework of the development of friendly relations between our two countries, and it is also aimed at conveying the brotherly greetings of the president of the Council of State and of the Kampuchean people to the Upper Voltan people and at assuring them of our solidarity and our firm and active support for the revolution being carried out in Upper Volta by the Upper Voltan people under the chairmanship of the CNR led by His Excellency President Thomas Sankara.

Our country was freed from the genocidal Pol Pot regime a little more than 5 years ago. We liberated the country on 7 January 1979 to be exact. A little more than 5 years have gone by. We freed a country that had been completely destroyed by the genocidal regime. We not only lost more than 3 million people, who were massacred by that genocidal regime, but also all the economic and social structures of the country were completely destroyed by that criminal regime, because it was a regime that set up a society without towns, without schools, without hospitals, without markets, and without currency. It was a regime that wanted to make our society primitive. It is for these reasons that we freed our country and more than 5 years have gone by. We are now tackling economic and social development which is very important. [end recording]

[Announcer] Our associate, Asmani Ouedraogo of *CARREFOUR AFRICAIN* magazine, also asked the diplomat to provide an insight on relations between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Upper Volta of 4 August. Here is what he said:

[Begin Hong recording] Since the CNR came into power under the chairmanship of President Thomas Sankara, we have followed events here with a lot of interest, a lot of sympathy, and I would even say with a lot of compassion, because, in any case, we are defending the same ideal, the same cause in both Upper Volta and the People's Republic of Kampuchea. In fact, it is for this reason that we came here — to provide information on our country and to know and learn about what is happening in the Republic of Upper Volta and to see how we could develop friendly relations between our two countries and peoples. [end recording]

Mozambique, South Africa Sign Accord of Nkomati

'Full Text' of Accord

MB160940 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0928 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Nkomati, March 16, SAPA — South Africa and Mozambique today agreed to resolve future differences and disputes by peaceful means and not to resort to the threat or use of force.

The "Accord of Nkomati" signed by President Samora Machel and the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, this morning set mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and independence as a fundamental obligation which could be fulfilled only by refraining from interference in each other's internal affairs.

The accord described the use or threat of force as:

— Attacks by land, air and sea forces;
— Sabotage;
— Unwarranted concentration of such forces at or near the international boundaries of the parties; and
— The violation of the international land, air or sea boundaries of the parties.

The full text of the accord reads as follows:

"Agreement on nonaggression and good neighbourliness between the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Government of the Republic of South Africa:

"The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the high contracting parties;

"Recognising the principles of strict respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, sovereign equality, political independence and the inviolability of the borders of all states;

"Reaffirming the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states;

"Considering the internationally recognised principle of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and the principle of equal rights of all peoples;

"Considering the obligation of all states to refrain, in their international relations, from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political indpendence of any state;

"Considering the obligation of states to settle conflicts by peaceful means, and thus safeguard international peace and security and justice;

"Recognising the responsibility of states not to allow their territory to be used for acts of war, aggression or violence against other states;

"Conscious of the need to promote relations of good neighbourliness based on the principles of equality of rights and mutual advantage;

"Convinced that relations of good neighbourliness between the high contracting parties will contribute to peace, security, stability and progress in southern Africa, the continent and the world;

"Have solemnly agreed to the following:

"Article one —

"The high contracting parties undertake to respect each other's sovereignty and independence and, in fulfillment of this fundamental obligation, to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other.

"Article two —

"(1) The high contracting parties shall resolve differences and disputes that may arise between them and that may or are likely to endanger mutual peace and security or peace and security in the region by means of negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration or other peaceful means, and undertake not to resort, individually or collectively, to the threat or use of force against each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence.

"(2) For the purposes of this article, the use of force shall include, inter alia:

"(a) Attacks by land, air or sea forces;

"(b) Sabotage;

"(c) Unwarranted concentration of such forces at or near the international boundaries of the high contracting parties;

"(d) Violation of the international land, air or sea boundaries of either of the high contracting parties.

"(3) The high contracting parties shall not in any way assist the armed forces of any state or group of states deployed against the territorial sovereignty or political independence of the other.

"Article three —

"(1) The high contracting parties shall not allow their respective territories, territorial waters or air space to be used as a base, thoroughfare, or in any other way by another state, government, foreign military forces, organisations or individuals which plan or prepare to commit acts of violence, terrorism or aggression against the territorial integrity or political independence of the other or may threaten the security of its inhabitants.

"(2) The high contracting parties, in order to prevent or eliminate the acts or the preparation of acts mentioned in paragraph (1) of this article, undertake in particular to:

"(a) Forbid and prevent in their respective territories the organisation of irregular forces or armed bands, including mercenaries, whose objective is to carry out the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(b) Eliminate from their respective territories bases, training centres, places of shelter, accommodation and transit for elements who intend to carry out the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(c) Eliminate from their respective territories centres or depots containing armaments of whatever nature, destined to be used by the elements contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(d) Eliminate from their respective territories command posts or other places for the command, direction and coordination of the elements contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(e) Eliminate from their respective territories communication and telecommunication facilities between the command and the elements contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(f) Eliminate and prohibit the installation in their respective territories of radio broadcasting stations, including unofficial or clandestine broadcasts, for the elements that carry out the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(g) Exercise strict control, in their respective territories, over elements which intend to carry out or plan the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(h) Prevent the transit of elements who intend or plan to commit the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article, from a place in the territory of either to a place in the territory of the other or to a place in the territory of any third state which has a common boundary with the high contracting party against which such elements intend or plan to commit the said acts;

"(i) Take appropriate steps in their respective territories to prevent the recruitment of elements of whatever nationality for the purpose of carrying out the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article;

"(j) Prevent the elements contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article from carrying out from their respective territories by any means acts of abduction or other acts, aimed at taking citizens of any nationality hostage in the territory of the other high contracting party; and

"(k) Prohibit the provision on their respective territories of any logistic facilities for carrying out the acts contemplated in paragraph (1) of this article.

"(3) The high contracting parties will not use the territory of third states to carry out or support the acts contemplated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article.

"Article four —

"The high contracting parties shall take steps, individually and collectively, to ensure that the international boundary between their respective territories is effectively patrolled and that the border posts are efficiently administered to prevent illegal crossings from the territory of a high contracting party to the territory of the other, and in particular, by elements contemplated in article three of this agreement.

"Article five —

"The high contracting parties shall prohibit within their territory acts of propaganda that incite a war of aggression against the other high contracting party and shall also prohibit acts of propaganda aimed at inciting acts of terrorism and civil war in the territory of the other high contracting party.

"Article six —

"The high contracting parties declare that there is no conflict between their commitments in treaties and international obligations and the commitments undertaken in this agreement.

"Article seven —

"The high contracting parties are committed to interpreting this agreement in good faith and will maintain periodic contact to ensure the effective application of what has been agreed.

"Article eight —

"Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as detracting from the high contracting parties' right of self-defense in the event of armed attacks, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

"Article nine —

"(1) Each of the high contracting parties shall appoint high-ranking representatives to serve on a joint security commission with the aim of supervising and monitoring the application of this agreement.

"(2) The commission shall determine its own working procedure.

"(3) The commission shall meet on a regular basis and may be specially convened whenever circumstances so require.

"(4) The commission shall —

"(a) Consider all allegations of infringements of the provisions of this agreement:

"(b) Advise the high contracting parties of its conclusions; and

"(c) Make recommendations to the high contracting parties concerning measures for the effective application of this agreement and the settlement of disputes over infringements or alleged infringements.

"(5) The high contracting parties shall determine the mandate of their respective representatives in order to enable interim measures to be taken in cases of duly recognised emergency.

"(6) The high contracting parties shall make available all the facilities necessary for the effective functioning of the commission and will jointly consider its conclusions and recommendations.

"Article ten —

"This agreement will also be known as the Accord of Nkomati.

"Article eleven —

"(1) This agreement shall enter into force on the date of the signature thereof.

"(2) Any amendment to this agreement agreed to by the high contracting parties shall be effected by the exchange of notes between them.

"In witness whereof, the signatories, in the name of their respective governments, have signed and sealed this agreement, in quadruplicate in the Portuguese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

"Thus done and signed at the common border on the banks of the Nkomati River, on this the sixteenth day of March 1984"

Machel Address at Ceremony

MB160846 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0829 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Nkomati, March 16, SAPA — The Nkomati Accord would lay the foundation for a definitive break in the cycle of violence that had been established in the southern African region, President Samora Machel of Mozambique said today.

Addressing a crowd of about 1,000 at the signing of the accord by himself and the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, President Machel said the accord was a unique document among the states in the region.

"The need for it arose not so much from the differences between the two countries, but above all from the process of confrontation that had developed and had created the awareness that this was not the road that would best serve the interests of our two countries.

"We have undertaken here a solemn commitment not to launch aggressive actions of any sort against one another, and we have created conditions for the establishment, with honour and dignity, of a new phase of stability and security on our common borders."

The signing of the agreement of nonaggression and good neighbourliness was a high point in the history of relations between the two states and a high point in the history of the region.

"The principles we have enshrined in the accord at Nkomati are universally valid ones that govern relations between sovereign states regardless of their political, economic and social systems.

"They are principles that open new perspectives for the relationship between our states, insofar as they guarantee a solid and lasting peace between the two neighbouring countries. They are principles that establish a new situation in our region, a situation of peace and good neighbourliness.

"We do not want southern Africa, and our two countries in particular, to be the theatre for a generalised conflict. That is why we have enshrined in the Accord of Nkomati the principles that our states would not be used by any other state, or group of states, to jeopardise the sovereignty, territorial integrity or independence of our countries.

"We are thus laying the foundation for a definitive break of the cycle of violence that has been established in this region of the continent...a violence that was above all the result of the burdensome legacies we carried with us: a violence that began some centuries ago, when the dignity and personality of African people were trampled on by the aggression, domination and exploitation of European colonialism.

"Africa was ravaged by the brutality of slave wars and colonial conquests, which brought division, humiliation, poverty and destruction to the peoples of the continent.

"We are a continent of survivors. We survived slavery, we survived wars of conquests and we survived the brutality of repression when we wanted to become masters of our own destinies.

"For that reason we are fully cognisant of the value of peace and of the need to reject the legacies that divide us.

"We thus assume, before the world and before history, responsibility for guaranteeing the perpetuity of this agreement and eliminating the root causes of violence, war and confrontation.

"The differences between our political, economic and social concepts are great and even antagonistic.

"We recognised these differences honourably on the hard and difficult road of frank and open talks that led us to this agreement.

"We shall continue to be aware of the remaining contradictions, but we recognise that we are indissolubly linked by geography and proximity.

"Peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and relations of good neighbourliness are the only rational alternative for our future to be free of the spectre of violence and destruction.

"The People's Republic of Mozambique cherishes peace as the most precious possession of mankind, the deepest aspiration of all peoples. Peace and coexistence are written into our constitution. Based on our socialist policy of peace we have proposed, since the first meeting between our governments on December 17, 1982, that we should agree, formally or informally, so that peace and coexistence prevail between our states.

"Peace is when there is respect between states for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Peace is where there is harmony, and physical, material, spiritual and social tranquility. Peace is when the life, liberty, equality and dignity of man is respected without any discrimination.

"Peace generates the conditions for progress, economic development and social well-being.

"After a long period of armed conflict, hopes of peace are emerging. They must be converted into reality. They must be fertilised and enriched so that they may blossom and grow.

"The prospect of peace opens possibilities for developing the vast resources in which our region abounds. These resources must as a matter of priority be exploited for the benefit of the people, while always safeguarding the national interest of each state.

"Economic relations between our states must develop in a healthy and correct manner.

"We neither can nor should ignore the fact that our relations have an historic tradition, which enhanced the geographical contiguity of the two countries.

"But we must also recognise that relations of economic dependence are not conducive to stability and harmonious progress. For this reason our state rejects any type of relationship that might in any way limit its independence or make it economically dependent on another country.

"In the economic sphere let us find ways of developing resources, infrastructures and circumstances which, being part of the experience of our relations, are likely to bring reciprocal advantages and benefits on the basis of equality.

"It is within this context that the agreement of nonaggression and good neighbourliness has an important role to play, as there can be no development without peace and tranquility.

"We have established relations of cooperation with the states of southern Africa in the framework of the SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference].

"As we have already had occasion to state, the SADCC was not created against South Africa. Its central objective is to eliminate hunger, wretchedness and illiteracy and to improve the standard of living of the people of the region. Its member states refuse economic dependence on South Africa as on any other country.

"These objectives are solemnly proclaimed in the Lusaka Declaration which created the SADCC, and we want to reaffirm here our total adherence to these principles.

"Mr Prime Minister, our states have been able to map out the path of coexistence. They have been able to discuss these matters between themselves. Between themselves they have been able to define their interests and objectives. Many have been surprised at the speed with which we found the answers, and by our ability to do so without external interference.

"None of us, Mozambicans or South Africans, have another country. We are not foreigners to our continent or our countries.

"We have to live together on a basis of mutual respect, freedom, equality and justice. These are fundamental principles of our state, principles that are the very essence of our concept of a free and democratic society. They are principles with which we remain consistent and to which we are intransigently loyal.

"Our objective is that our region should assert itself as a model of peace. We do not want southern Africa or our continent to be the base for any armed conflicts. In particular we do not want to be the ones to trigger off a confrontation on a worldwide scale.

"The liberation struggle of the African peoples was a struggle to achieve peace. The whole of Africa is continuing the struggle to become a zone of peace, and for her oceans to be thoroughfares of peace, unity, friendship and cooperation between peoples. The whole of Africa is fighting to avert the horrors of a nuclear holocaust from the continent. The peoples of Africa have always struggled to eliminate the motive causes of conflicts, tension and wars. They have always struggled to eradicate foreign domination and exploitation, and to build progress, prosperity and happiness in peace.

"In this struggle to affirm the dignity and personality of African man, the Organisation of African Unity was and continues to be an important instrument for materialising the legitimate aspiration of the peoples of our continent.

"We cannot lose this opportunity to pay our tribute to those who founded and inspired the OAU. More than twenty years ago a galaxy of illustrious African leaders had the lucidity, the historical vision and the courage to give form to the aspiration of unity so that the struggle of the African people for the liberation of our continent could continue.

"In this great epic — the liberation of Africa — many were the heroes who sacrificed their lives for this very noble cause. It is with deep emotion that at this moment we evoke their memories, which will remain immortalised, with affection and respect, in the history of Africa.

"We would like to emphasise the decisive role of the leaders of the frontline states with which we have been united for a long time in the cause of the liberation of our continent and in the search for peace and progress and in the search for justice and equality in this region of Africa.

"We salute Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Doctor Kenneth David Kaunda, those distinguished figures who transformed their peoples into firm and unwavering allies in the liberation of the Mozambican people. This respectful tribute to the peoples of Tanzania and Zambia is extended to all the peoples who were able to make the struggle for peace and freedom their own.

"The agreeement we have concluded is a significant contribution towards these noble objectives. Furthermore, it enables the region to concentrate its efforts on the prime struggle of the continent and humanity — the struggle against hunger, disease, ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment.

"Let Africa emerge as a region of progress where reason prevails over hate and prejudice and where the efforts of man can concentrate on the struggle for development and well-being.

"Peace, security, stability and progress have always been objectives of the Mozambican people's struggle.

"In 1964 our people launched the armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism to win national independence and eliminate one of the factors that disturbed peace in our region. In 1974, ten years later, that objective was attained. Another ten years have elapsed, and we are here to establish the basis for a climate of good neighborliness and peace to prevail between two states of the southern region of our continent.

"The effort to achieve peace required determination, a correct historical perspective and steadfastness. The moment has arrived when for us, what counts for more than legal texts and formulations is the given word, the sense of commitment and good faith.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique will keep its word both in letter and in spirit.

"We have always fought for peace, equality and progress proclaiming Frelimo's watchword: The struggle continues.

"Today the struggle continues for equality, for democracy, for justice so that on our continent we should all be equal.

"Today, for peace, stability, good neighborliness and progress, a luta continua."

Botha Address at Ceremony

MB160908 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0858 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Nkomati, March 16, SAPA — South Africa and Mozambique have signalled to the world their belief that states of different socio-economic and political systems could live together in peace and harmony, the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, said this morning.

"Our action today in signing this treaty, the Accord of Nkomati, sets a new course in the history of southern Africa." Mr Botha was addressing over 1000 people on the banks of the Nkomati River shortly after he and President Samora Machel of Mozambique had signed the historic nonaggression pact between the two countries.

"We have signalled to the world our belief that states with different socio-economic and political systems can live together in peace and harmony, and work together in the pursuit of common interests.

"Our meeting today indicates our willingness and ability to reach peaceful accords which enshrine our commitment to the principles of good neighborliness," he said.

Another principle underlying the agreement was that each country had the right to order its affairs as it saw fit, and that interstate relations, particularly between neighbours, should not be disturbed by differences in internal policies.

"This is sensible and practical, as it recognises that each country has its own set of conditions for which it must seek its own solution in the interest of its citizens."

The Nkomati Accord was an act of faith on the part of the two governments in the promise that, given a climate of stability and mutual co-existence, they would be able to focus their energies on the problems which really mattered in their region, and to get to work on the fundamental requirements of their peoples.

"In signing this agreement today we have opted for the road of peace. I know that it is a difficult road, not without risks for either of us and we cannot escape the fact that peace, too, has its price.

"We start off with a burden of mutual suspicion and bitter memories which, as we progress, must be shed by the wayside," Mr Botha said.

"South Africa was one of the first countries of Africa to confront colonial occupation and foreign exploitation. The people I belong to know the feeling of powerlessness in the face of an external force far greater than ours. Our independence did not come easily. Countless numbers of our women and children died in concentration camps while their husbands, fathers and brothers fought the might of a great empire. Their sacrifice has kept the flame of freedom burning in the hearts of South Africans ever since.

"Neither South Africa nor Mozambique had a hand in drawing the political map as we know it today. Our borders were arbitrarily drawn by others, by people who served the interests of colonial powers and who spared little thought, if any, for the inhabitants of the region.

"Having gained our political independence we have a duty to use it to free our peoples also from the chains of poverty, ignorance and disease. The means we have chosen may point in opposite directions. They often conflict, but we cannot allow our divergent outlooks on life to distract us from the urgent need to create better opportunities for our peoples to enable them to break out of the debilitating cycle of poverty, and to work for a future which offers realistic prospects for peace and a better standard of living.

"We face extremely complex social, political and economic problems in southern Africa; so complex that they can result in conflict and it is often difficult to avoid being drawn into the resultant spiral of confrontation and conflict. In these circumstances the real issues are avoided — uncomfortable facts and harsh realities are dusted under the carpet while nations wage an ideological war of words and act with hostility towards each other. But facts and realities are remarkably resilient companions of mankind. They will not simply disappear because we banish them from our sight. Indeed, unless we attend to them honestly and frankly the problems which they present will merely be compounded.

"The Republic of South Africa, in voicing its concern several years ago at the increasing signs of confrontation and conflict in our region, came to the conclusion that the leaders of our sub-continent would have to face these realities and rearrange

their priorities accordingly. As governments we have a duty to view the welfare and prosperity of our peoples as our first priority.

"South Africa recognised that it had the stability, the economic strength and the productive capacity to assist its neighbours in achieving the regional goal of progress and development, provided the countries concerned were prepared to seek healthier mutual relations. My country offered to sign nonaggression pacts with all its neighbours in pursuit of that objective, and today with the People's Republic of Mozambique we are taking an important step in that direction.

"There can be no question of this agreement being a temporary expedient from which one side or the other might desire to derive unilateral advantage. This is so because the factors which have brought us together are themselves immutable. It is the economic and geographic realities of our region which have brought us together and which will be the best guarantee of the success and permanence of this agreement.

"We can explore numerous possibilities for expanding our relations for mutual benefit in the atmosphere of peace and trust that we are now creating. Such an atmosphere will lead to confidence and will encourage the private sectors of the South African economy and of other countries to play a constructive role if they can be assured that their investments will be secure and of mutual benefit to producers and consumers alike.

"We are both African countries, inhabited by African peoples whose past and whose future are firmly entrenched in the southern part of the African continent. We are of Africa. We share a common future in this part of the world, and a common responsibility to ensure that the generations which follow us will inherit a better world than we did. This agreement can contribute significantly towards such a better world.

"We have signed it before an assembled group of dignitaries and guests, civilians from many walks of life, as well as before representatives of our armed forces on whom we rely to defend our countries with their lives. By ensuring the successful implementation of this agreement, we will create a situation in which, if our armed forces are called upon to do battle, it will not be between our respective countries.

"By agreeing to the spirit and letter of this accord my government looks forward to a new era of cooperation and peaceful coexistence between South Africa and Mozambique in the search for a better life for our peoples.

"I see a subcontinent in which countries work together to rationalise and increase food production, develop regional trade, establish housing programmes, education and training schemes, health services, employment opportunities, and many other mutually beneficial activities. We can exchange information on programmes to overcome the consequences of droughts, floods and other natural disasters. Together we can form an economic alliance to negotiate better prices on world markets for our minerals and raw materials.

"Given the necessary stability and good neighbourliness, I have a vision of the nations of southern Africa cooperating with each other in every field of human endeavour: a veritable constellation of states working together for the benefit of all on the basis of mutual respect. It is most appropriate that leaders and representatives of states in southern Africa, as well as representatives of other states, are in attendance on this historic occasion.

"I wish to thank them for their presence. Some I have met before, others I am meeting for the first time. All have, in one way or another, contributed to the process of communication and negotiation which has culminated in our proceedings today.

"When later this afternoon we have to part, the structures which have been erected here will be taken down and removed, and this beautiful valley will again be the domain of the hippopotamus and many other creatures of the animal kingdom. I would like us, together, to build a memorial on this spot where the Accord of Nkomati was signed, so that long after we have gone, future generations will know that we met here today to charter a new and promising course in the history of our two countries.

"Our task now is to return to work, to put our agreement into operation, and do all we can to ensure that historians of the future will mark today as a major turning point in the destiny of our subcontinent.

"Once again something new has emerged from Africa. We believe that this agreement between our countries can serve as a model for relationships throughout our region, and, indeed, throughout the world. We cannot allow southern Africa to whither away and die.

"Our responsibility as Africans is to give our subcontinent a chance to live, to grow, to develop, and to show that we can succeed without the interference of outsiders. As Africans, we take pride in our identity and in our traditions in this part of the world. Instead of dividing our energies and resources let us pool them, for it is in our combined economic strength that the promise of a more prosperous region will best be realised.

"By our meeting here today we are sending a message to the world that southern Africa will survive and her children will prosper. May God grant us the courage and the strength to fulfil our mission," Mr Botha concluded.

Details of Signing Ceremony

MB161205 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1151 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Nkomati, March 16, SAPA — The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and President Samora Machel of Mozambique mounted the covered podium at Nkomati at 1147 today to sign the historic Nkomati Accord between the two countries.

Proceedings started when a South African Defence Force guard of honor, led by the Air Force band, marched on to the South African side of the border. The guard of honor was led by a platoon of coloured soldiers from the Cape Corp, followed by the Air Force and Navy platoons.

Moments later the Mozambican guard of honor, smartly kitted out in bottle green with white gloves and belts, marched on with [words indistinct] greeted with applause and ululation from enthusiastic Mozambicans.

A South African soldier and his Mozambican counterpart stood stiffly to attention beside flagpoles on either side of the borderline, ready to unfurl their respective flags. In the background were six more flagpoles bearing three flags of each country which were also readied for the arrival of President Machel and Prime Minister Mr P.W. Botha.

The guests and signatories assembled to witness the historic accord sweated profusely under the blazing sun as they waited an unscheduled 20 minutes for the arrival of the two leaders. They were expected to leave the conference coach of the white train and walk down to the river bank to sign the peace pact shortly before 1130, but only arrived at 1145, to be heralded by three SADF trumpeters as the eight flags were unfurled. Timeously, a light breeze sprang up extending the flags to full splendour.

On the VIP podium Mrs Elize Botha sat next to President Machel's wife, Gracia, while behind them a score of dignatories watched. The national anthems of the two states were then played while all present stood to attention.

The Accord of Nkomati was then signed by the two heads of state.

Behind the two leaders a fence on the crown of a low hill in the background indicated the borderline between South Africa and Mozambique — extended, this line would have run down across the river between Mr Botha and President Machel as they sat at the ornate wooden table.

The Mozambique leader then rose to address the assembly and speaking in Portuguese said the two states were laying the foundation for a definitive break of the cycle of violence that had been established in the southern African region. Mr Botha then delivered his address in English and said his government looked forward to a new era of cooperation and peaceful co-existence between South Africa and Mozambique in the search for a better life for their peoples.

After this the two leaders inspected the South African and Mozambican guards of honor, watched by enthusiastic spectators from both countries.

On their return to the podium where the accord was signed, two little boys, one black, one white, presented the two leaders with a sprig of fern and a red anthirium bloom, symbolic acknowledgement of the peace pact.

Mrs Elize Botha and Mrs Gracia Machel were also presented with similiar "symbols" by children from both countries, as were other dignatories on the VIP stand.

Simultaneously a number of large red and white balloons with the words "peace" and "paz," the Portuguese word for peace, were released and rose into the cloudless blue sky. The two countries national anthems were then played again by their respective bands and the ceremony came to an end.

This was followed by a formal luncheon, in the shelter of Army tents.

Frontline Leaders Support Mozambique

MB151340 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has received messages from the leaders of all the frontline states expressing their solidarity with Mozambique's position on peace in southern Africa and the decision to sign a nonaggression accord with South Africa. The message from Tanzania was delivered personally by President Julius Nyerere when he visited Maputo on Tuesday. He expressed total confidence in Frelimo, and said South Africa's commitment not to commit aggression against Mozambique was a position the frontline states had always fought for.

Angola's president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, said in a message that Angola was in complete solidarity with Mozambique's initiative for peace with South Africa.

Zimbabwe's prime minister, Robert Mugabe, expressed his total support for the peace moves and said that if South Africa honors the letter and the spirit of this agreement with Mozambique, Zimbabwe will benefit immensely. Mr Mugabe added that Zimbabwe remained a firm ally of Mozambique in the consolidation of its hard-won peace and independence.

President Kaunda of Zambia said in a message to President Samora that Zambia had complete confidence in him and in the Mozambique people. Zambia, he said, had never doubted Mozambique's commitment to the struggle against apartheid and for peace.

Botswana's President Quett Masire expressed his government's profound understanding and total solidarity with Mozambique in relation to the move toward peace.

ANC Statement Condemns Accord

MB161230 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The African National Congress has issued a statement on the signing of the Nkomati peace accord. It has called the accord a frantic diplomatic, political, and propaganda counteroffensive in southern Africa.

The statement says the objectives of the accord include isolating the ANC and compelling independent Africa to act as Pretoria's agents. It says the accord aims to liquidate the armed struggle for the liberation of South Africa and transform the independent countries of the region into client states for Pretoria on the level of its bantustan creations.

The statement blames South Africa for the political, economic, and security problems in the region. It says the Botha regime

hopes to pacify its neighbours and drive the ANC out and then have a free hand to suppress the most democratic movement of the country. The ANC condemns the United States Reagan administration's policy in southern Africa, calling the administration an angel of war, reaction, and repression in many areas of the world.

Tripartite Cahora Bassa Talks To Continue in Maputo

MB151355 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique, South Africa, and Portugal agreed in Cape Town yesterday to continue the tripartite talks for an interstate agreement on the Cahora Bassa dam. Our correspondent said that discussions continued for the establishment of a contract between the company which supplies energy from Cahora Bassa which still to be named by Mozambique, and the Electricity Supply Commission of South Africa. At the invitation of the Mozambique delegation, the next round of tripartite talks will take place in the Mozambique capital at a date still to be announced. The delegations of the three countries present at the talks expressed their wish to intensify the bilateral relations in order to reach more rapidly to a final agreement on Cahora Bassa. A document read yesterday at the end of the 2-day talks says that considerable progress was made in the talks and an understanding was reached on the issues involved. According to our correspondent, draft texts of the final agreements have been drawn up and will be submitted to the respective governments.

As we have already announced, Mozambique will gain more benefits from the Cahora Bassa dam. An agreement was also reached at the Cape Town talks on the increase of the tariffs to be paid by South Africa for the consumption of energy from Cahora Bassa. The Mozambique delegation to these tripartite talks, led by Antonio Branco, minister of industry and energy, returns home today.

ANGOLA

Embassy Denies Carreira Arrest, Planned Coup

LD152044 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Angolan Embassy in Lisbon has denied reports published by a Lisbon weekly newspaper today to the effect that Iko Carreira, the Angolan Air Force commander, had been detained. A spokesman for the embassy also described as totally unfounded reports published by the same weekly paper about rumors of a planned coup d'etat in Angola.

BOTSWANA

Parliamentarians Criticize RSA Nonaggression Pacts

MB151320 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Members of parliament yesterday said that through the latest so-called peace initiative coupled with destabilization, South Africa wanted to dominate the countries of southern Africa both economically and militarily. Speaking in Parliament after a policy statement delivered by the minister of external affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe, the member of Parliament for Kweneng East, Mr David Magang, said the widely publicized nonaggression pact to be signed between Mozambique and South Africa tomorrow had not been reached on an equal basis. Mr Magang alluded to South Africa's policy of destabilization in the region and incursions into neighboring countries, and pointed out that South Africa wanted to force her neighbors into such pacts.

Mr Magang expressed the belief that since the peace initiatives were forced on countries through military pressure, it therefore followed that such pacts cannot be in the interests of southern Africa.

The member of Parliament for Shoshong, Mr Goareng Mosinyi, said Botswana was entitled as a sovereign state to choose friends from any part of the world. He added that Botswana should be seen within the light of a Switzerland of Africa in her neutrality and open-door policy towards other countries. Mr Magang expressed that South Africa should learn to respect the sovereignty of neighboring states and argued that Botswana does not need to sign any nonaggression pact, because it had no aggressive inclinations.

On related southern Africa issues, Mr Mosinyi said the Cuban forces were in Angola on the basis of a bilateral agreement between the two states, and as such there should be no link between their withdrawal from Angola and the independence of Namibia. Mr Magang had also expressed the same sentiment. Mr Mosinyi said Botswana would never be used as a springboard for attacks against the other countries, but emphasized the fact the country will continue to accept those people fleeing from political persecution.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Urges RSA To Abolish Apartheid

MB151920 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that South Africa is clamoring for nonaggression pacts with neighboring countries because it wants to divert international opinion from the evils of apartheid. Speaking on a budget vote for defense and internal security in parliament today, Dr Jonathan said that the solution to the problems of southern Africa did not lie in the signing of nonaggression pacts, but in the dismantling of the apartheid system, which creates refugees. The prime minister said that no matter how many nonaggression pacts were signed, there could be no peace in the region as long as apartheid subsisted, because black people in Namibia and South Africa would continue to be dissatisfied and to flee to neighboring countries.

The prime minister also said that the signing of a nonaggression pact between Lesotho and South Africa would be of no consequence, as Lesotho does not have any power to enforce such an agreement. On the other hand, South Africa was a military giant

which is not threatened even by the whole of Africa combined. Dr Jonathan, however, disclosed that he had sent a message of congratulations to President Machel of Mozambique on the eve of the signing of a nonaggression pact between Mozambique and South Africa. He explained to Parliament his view that President Machel was free to take any decision he deemed to be in the interest of his country. Nobody had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of Lesotho.

Dr Jonathan again affirmed that he was the pioneer of dialogue with South Africa, and that the current peace initiatives in the region were not a new phenomenon, but a reaffirmation of the belief he had championed some years ago. He noted that some of the African leaders who were today glorifying the idea of dialogue with South Africa had in the past regarded him as a sellout for championing this same course.

The prime minister lauded the South African newspaper the *RAND DAILY MAIL*, whose edition of today had for the first time spoken the truth about Lesotho by admitting that it was he who had started the question of dialogue with South Africa. He agreed with the newspaper that it was South Africa which killed the idea of dialogue by rejecting the Lusaka manifesto. This had in turn prompted the OAU to opt implicitly for armed struggle as opposed to dialogue. Dr Jonathan pointed out that even after South Africa's rejection of dialogue, he had himself left all the doors open to the process.

As well as Lesotho, the five frontline states have sent messages of support and solidarity to President Samora Machel on Mozambique's position in reaching an agreement with South Africa on nonaggression and good neighborliness. The message of the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, which has been conveyed to President Machel by Lesotho's ambassador in Maputo, Mr D.P.G. Makoae, expressed the hope that this act will be truly interpreted and understood to reflect the true aspirations of African peoples both in Mozambique and southern Africa. The prime minister also said that he hopes that this initative will signal a new beginning of a meaningful change in the attitudes of countries in the subcontinent to listen to each other with patience.

Ambassador Makoae will represent the Lesotho Government at the peace pact signing ceremony at Komatipoort tomorrow morning.

MADAGASCAR

APN Organizes Debate on Indian Ocean as Zone of Peace

MB151515 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French
0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet press agency APN organized a roundtable debate in Antananarivo yesterday on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. A number of journalists from the capital, as well as pressmen and ambassadors accredited to Madagascar and representatives of other agencies operating in Madagascar, participated in the roundtable debate.

There were three main reasons for the roundtable debate. The first is the establishment and maintenance of world peace. The second is that it is here that the UN Special Commission will examine the case of the Indian Ocean, and, finally, to discuss the forthcoming world peace conference to be held in April of this year (?in our country).

(Novitil Krokodilovich Yuniyev), director of the Soviet press agency, and representatives of the National Committee for the Peace and Friendship of the Peoples, emphasized the importance of a roundtable debate among journalists, as President Didier Ratsiraka himself has discussed the matter with Konstantin Chernenko, the new CPSU general secretary. According to the text of their statements, which was distributed during the course of the roundtable debate, the USSR leader attaches great importance to the struggle for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. [Words indistinct] the problems which have led to the current Indian Ocean situation include militarist actions conducted by the United States and several of its current allies. As a result, the political and military tension in the region has yet to cease escalating.

MOZAMBIQUE

Portugal's De Almeida Arrives for Accord Signing

MB151210 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Antonio de Almeida Santos, Portuguese minister of state, arrived in Maputo yesterday as a personal guest of President Samora Machel to attend the signing of the Mozambique-South Africa pact. Minister Almeida Santos was received at Maputo International Airport by Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for economic affairs.

Workers in Maputo Let Off for RSA Pact Rally

MB151617 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Workers from activity centres in Maputo will be exempted from work after 1030 on 17 March so that they can participate in the popular demonstration to take place in center of Xipamanine in support of the signing of the pact of nonaggression between the governments of Mozambique and South Africa. A note from the Maputo Executive Council stresses that this exemption does not include workers from activity centres whose work can not be interrupted for reasons of public interest or national economy.

RSA To Increase Use of Maputo Harbor After Talks

MB151413 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Mozambique delegation, which had talks in Johannesburg with South African clients of the Mozambique railroads and Maputo harbor, returns home today. A dispatch from a news correspondent says that the Mozambique delegation achieved its goals. The same source says that the clients of Maputo harbor

were anxious to know about the possibilities and facilities that our harbor offers. Within this context, according to the news correspondent, the responsible persons for Maputo harbor persuaded the South Africans to increase their traffic through this harbor, explaining in detail the investments which have been and are being made, as well as all the facilities available for handling goods. The main issue now is to improve trade relations, and to do so it is necessary to make an in-depth analysis of the problems, find joint solutions, and create mutual trust for mutually beneficial ventures, the news correspondent reported from Johannesburg.

'No Announcement' on End of MNR Broadcast Suspension

AB161102 Dakar PANA in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 84

["Bandit Radio Off the Air" — AIM headline]

[Text] Maputo, 16 March (AIM/PANA) — The radio station of the self-styled Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) has announced that it is ceasing its broadcasts.

Those who tuned in to the shortwave broadcast of Voz da Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana (Voice of the MNR) last night heard the announcer say that the station had been obliged to suspend its operations for reorganisation.

The radio station was set up in 1976, and originally broadcast from Gwelo in what was still then Rhodesia. It first called itself Voz da Africa Livre (Voice of Free Africa), but Mozambicans swiftly rebaptised it Voz da Quizumba (Voice of the Hyena).

In February 1980 it suspended its broadcasts as a result of the Lancaster House agreement and the impending independence of Zimbabwe. The radio was moved to South Africa and restarted its broadcasts from there in June 1980.

Its broadcasts consisted of insults against the Mozambican Government, the Frelimo party and their leaders, and propaganda in favour of the acts of banditry carried out by the MNR.

When the radio went off the air in 1980, it announced confidently that it would soon be back. This time there was no such announcement.

NAMIBIA

'Heavy Fighting' Seen Between SWAPO, Angolan Troops

MB161205 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1135 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 16, SAPA — Heavy fighting between units of the Angolan regular army, FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] and SWAPO's fighting wing, PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia], is reported to have occurred in the south of Angola. The fighting broke out as PLAN members, presumably on their way to SWA/Namibia, encountered Angolan forces, according to a Windhoek English daily newspaper.

An Afrikaans daily reported there had been a mutiny among SWAPO guerrillas which had occasioned the Angolan Government to call in its defence force to intervention.

The mutiny, it said, took place at the "jumbo" SWAPO military base near the town of Lubango in south-western central Angola.

Reports were also received of a skirmish between FAPLA forces and PLAN guerrillas at Cuvelai last week. No mention was made of South Africa Armed Forces in the fighting.

According to the Afrikaans daily, reports received from Ovambo-speaking citizens in Ovamboland said the reason for the disquiet within the ranks of SWAPO arose from the desire by some SWAPO members and guerrillas to find a settlement to the territory's independence dispite, while others within the party and its fighting wing hold the view that the solution will be found only through the bullet.

The South-West Africa Territorial Force declined to comment.

Neither the recently released SWAPO founder member, Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, nor SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, could be contacted for comment.

Territory Forces Report 3 SWAPO Terrorists Killed

MB151900 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The South-West Africa Territory Force has announced in Windhoek that three SWAPO terrorists have been shot dead on the farm Leeudrink in the Tsumeb District. The insurgents had been part of a group of nine who infiltrated the traditionally white farming area of South-West Africa on 16 February. The Territory Force said five of the terrorists had now been killed.

Defense Headquarters announced yesterday that altogether 30 SWAPO terrorists had been shot dead last week. A Defense Force spokesman said the joint Angolan-South African Commission set up to monitor the withdrawal of South African forces from southern Angola had been informed of all the clashes with SWAPO terrorists.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Lauds Nkomati Accord, Kaunda Summit Offer

MB160706 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says that with the signing of the Nkomati Accord South Africa will be at peace with virtually all its neighbors. Addressing a public meeting at Meyerton, Mr Botha said that this was a situation that was to the advantage of all states in southern Africa.

The new pattern which was emerging in southern Africa was that leaders believe that they were serving their best interests through negotiation and cooperation. Mr Botha emphasized the significance of the offer by President Kaunda of Zambia to host a

summit of southern African leaders. South Africa would be willing to attend such a meeting because the Nkomati Accord had shown what southern African leaders could achieve through honesty and frankness.

Mr Botha said such a summit would facilitate in particular a solution to the South-West African and Angolan problems. Zambia could also play an important role if the country hosted a conference between the internal parties of South-West Africa and SWAPO. Mr Botha said South Africa would go along with all the decisions reached at such a conference.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe: One-Party State Needed To Prevent Subversion

AB151250 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Harare, Mar 15 (AFP) — Introduction of a one-party state is Zimbabwe's only hope for preventing subversion by outside forces, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe told a conference of his governing ZANU (PF) Party's Women's League here today.

Mr Mugabe's remarks came as no surprise to the conference's 2,000 women delegates, who are expected to take the first formal steps toward creating a party constitution calling for a one-party state.

The constitution is due to be ratified at the party's general conference in August, and Mr Mugabe has said ZANU (PF) will fight next year's parliamentary election — the first since independence in 1980 — on a one-party state platform.

"The time has surely now come for us to start laying the foundation on which the one-party state will be structured," Mr Mugabe said today. "We cannot continue to hesitate on this matter, as this creates a mixture of destabilisation and plans for more disunity by other forces."

Zimbabwe's current multi-party system derives from a British-written national constitution that was part of the independence war peace agreement in 1980.

But Mr Mugabe said the multi-party system had caused the country more chaos than peace, and he accused the three other political parties — Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU, Ian Smith's Republican Front and Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC — of subversion. He renewed allegations first made several years ago that thousands of Bishop Muzorewa's wartime followers were undergoing training as guerillas in South Africa.

The two-day women's league conference ends tomorrow.

ZANU-PF Women's Tasks Set

MB151445 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today called on the country's women to set an example of what good leadership should be by electing dedicated people to the ZANU-PF Women's League. In a wide-ranging speech to thousands of women attending the party's historic women's congress at the National Sports Centre in Harare, Comrade Mugabe, who is also the president of ZANU-PF, asked the delegates to look for the following qualities when electing leaders: the history of the individual as a member of the party, her commitment to the party, and her level of political consciousness, her sense of duty and responsibility, and her sense of discipline and readiness to account for her functions and actions to other members.

Comrade Mugabe, who gave a detailed account of the role played by women in the liberation struggle, also challenged the women to address themselves to the need to improve and consolidate the party-government relationship, as well as to gain insight into the party's ideology of socialism. The prime minister also called on women to carefully study the need to establish a one-party state in Zimbabwe, taking into account the chaotic situation that is often created by having small political parties.

Comrade Mugabe appealed to delegates to formulate resolutions which will be considered at the national party congress to be held in August this year. Among such resolutions, Comrade Mugabe said there should be a need to be united and increase the party's membership, to organize various financial projects to raise funds for the party, a need to debate at various party levels problems that confront women in respect of their status in society, to carry out well-coordinated mass literacy and numeracy [as heard] programs for the education and development of illiterate women and men, and to organize women to participate in self-help projects which may generate income.

The prime minister bemoaned the fact that there are still laws and practices which continue to relegate women into second-class citizens. These, he said, need to be carefully examined. He said the Women's League must therefore be a forum for political mobilization of Zimbabwean women, and an instrument for examining all the grievances which stem from the woman's invidious condition (?en masse).

The 3-day congress is scheduled to end at the weekend.